

TV fee pegged as Hurd holds fire on report

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The television licence fee is to be held at £58 for a further year from April 1987, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Hurd told MPs in a debate on the Peacock report on broadcasting finance that since the questions raised by the report were yet to be resolved he had decided that the £58 fee should run for a further year - a year which, the Opposition was swift to point out, would almost certainly include an election.

The Government introduced a Broadcasting Bill in the House of Lords yesterday, providing for the current ITV contracts to be extended for three years and extending the maximum duration of contracts for Direct Broadcast by Satellite (DBS) from 12 to 15 years.

Mr Hurd has discussed with the chairman of the IBA an amendment to the timetable so that whatever decisions are taken on the future of the system can be incorporated in the next contract round. The present contracts expiring on December 31, 1989 will now run to December 31, 1992.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, explained yesterday that the funding the BBC either wholly or in part by advertising, on the ground that there was not sufficient elasticity of advertising for the two major broadcasters to compete for it without a reduction in the range and quality of programmes.

Mr David Mellor: Backed longer satellite contracts, three year extension for DBS contracts would enable a realistic assessment of the impact of the services.

Peacock called for at least 40 per cent of ITV and BBC programmes to be made by independent producers. The independents themselves have suggested 25 per cent, which Mr Hurd said was a "realistic goal".

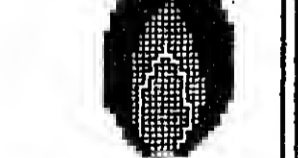
Next week

Mountainous Europe



From Monday, Europe's milk lakes and butter mountains are a wasteful result of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Selling gas



Tuesday: Tell Sid - The Times is publishing the application form plus full prospectus to apply for shares in British Gas

Portfolio Gold

The £4,000 daily prize in the Times Portfolio Gold competition was shared yesterday by five readers. Details, page 3

TIMES BUSINESS

£1.2bn bid

Pilkington Brothers, the Merseyside flat glass manufacturer, received a £1.2 billion takeover bid from BIR, the industrial conglomerate, valuing Pilkington's shares at 545p each

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Books, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Business, Chess, Court, Crosswords, Law Reports, Leaders, Letters, Measuring, Parliament, Sale Homes, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Weather.



Sufferer dogs searching for the bodies of children believed to have been murdered by Myra Hindley and Ian Brady yesterday holed in on four spots on the Yorkshire moors. (Photograph: Graham Wood). Full report, page 2.

More money for Aids research

By Martin Fletcher and Thomson Pringle

A big increase in Government funds to fight the growing Aids crisis is to be announced in the Commons today.

Last week Mr Tony Newton, Minister of State for Health, said that the Government would spend at least £10 million to combat the disease. However, that figure will be increased significantly by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, when he opens a full-day debate on Aids this morning.

Also to be unveiled today are the national press advertisements and radio commercials which are to spearhead the Government's public education campaign. These will be supplemented by extensive television advertising and a leaflet drop to 23 million households.

Mr Fowler will use the debate to spell out in stark terms the nature of the disease and the threat it poses. He will tell MPs that it is infectious, that it kills, and that there is no known cure. He will say that Britain is "on the threshold" and that only by a radical change in sexual behaviour can the spread of the disease be halted.

One minister yesterday underlined the seriousness with which the Government now views the Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) crisis. He forecast that it would dominate the thinking of the public and that it could condition the whole climate of the next election.

The first television commercials about Aids may be screened before the end of the year, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) said yesterday.

The advertisements will be explicit and may be shown at peak viewing times "when the largest and most appropriate numbers of people are viewing," the IBA said.

The style and content of the advertisements, which are likely to be shown concurrently on BBC, have not been divulged.

However, the IBA is most certain to contain advice on the use of condoms as protection against the risk of Aids virus infection.

The IBA said its screening of advertisements, which also will be broadcast on independent radio stations, will be followed in the new year by public service announcements on TV and radio.

The intention was to "continue to build up the highest possible awareness of the facts about Aids," the IBA said.

The BBC will show a mock 45-second Aids commercial on December 1 during a new science programme, Antenna, on BBC 2.

Tests unworkable, page 3

Chancellor defers cuts in income tax

By Rodney Lord and David Smith

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, confirmed yesterday that he would not be able to reduce the basic rate of income tax to his target of 25p in the coming Budget.

He told the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee that his aim would have to be deferred because of the increases in public spending announced in his autumn statement - A pound more of public spending was a pound not available for tax cuts.

But he described the changes in the Government's views on public spending as changes of "presentation rather than policy". And he emphasized that public spending would continue to fall as a proportion of the economy. He told the Committee he would prefer not to see the pound fall much further, mentioning that he paid most attention to the trade weighted index as the mirror of sterling's value.

He resisted suggestions from Mr Austin Mitchell that sterling should be allowed to fall and interest rates brought down.

"To allow the pound to fall in order to offset cost increases would be a surrender to inflation," he said. The Government's policy was one of non-accommodation.

The Chancellor said public spending in the next three years was planned to rise at 1 per cent a year in real terms compared with 1 1/2 per cent during this Parliament so far and 2 1/2 per cent during the Government's first term of office.

The pound fell sharply adding to the pressure on the Chancellor to raise interest rates. Official figures showed the credit boom gaining the pound dropped by a cent to \$1.4115 and it fell by two pence to DM2.8310 just above its all-time low.

The sterling index fell from 68 to 67.6. Interest rates in the money markets firmed.

The pound has fallen by 3 per cent in the two weeks since Mr Lawson said he would raise interest rates to defend it. However, the City has detected a difference of emphasis between Mr Lawson and Mrs Thatcher on this.

The view in the foreign exchange markets is that the Prime Minister is prepared to allow sterling to fall further in order to avoid higher interest rates. "Mrs Thatcher is undermining the pound," said Mr David Morrison, currency economist at Goldman Sachs.

The record bank lending increase of £3.5 billion was contained in the latest money supply figures. These showed sterling M3 at 18,25-18.5 per cent above its level a year earlier compared with the official 11 to 15 per cent target range.

Iran arms furore rages on despite Reagan's defence

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan's vigorous defence of his secret arms sales to Iran has failed to quell the furore here and has been challenged by sceptical congressmen of both parties.

Mr Reagan insisted he broke no law in sending the weapons and keeping the shipments secret from Congress, despite a requirement for "timely notice".

"I suspect the President does not understand the law with regard to informing Congress on these things," said Senator Richard Lugar, outgoing chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee.

Democrats were blunter. "One blunder after another," said Senator John Glenn of Ohio. "You can't continue to deceive the American people and expect us to trust him."

Reiterating that no further arms sales would be made to Iran, Mr Reagan promised to provide full information to Congress about his decision.

Looking tense, Mr Reagan insisted he had not made a mistake approving the operation. "It was a high-risk gamble... the circumstances were warranted and I don't see that it has been a fiasco or a great failure of any kind."

However, Mr Robert McFarlane, the former White House national security adviser who headed the clandestine mission to Tehran, was reported to have said the Administration made a mistake in providing the arms.

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Zimbabwe detains Legion members

By Andrew McEwen

Whitcomb Correspondent Elderly British Legion members in Zimbabwe were detained for five days in grim prison conditions for mailing letters sealed with stickers shaped like Remembrance Day poppies, it was claimed yesterday.

On the pretext that the stickers were "unauthorized literature", the Zimbabwean authorities seized records and accounts and rounded up volunteer office staff together with the only paid official. They were released on bail on Tuesday night.

Colonel Guy Stocker, Secretary General of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, spoke to one of the volunteers by telephone.

"He sounded pretty shaken up and was nervous talking on the 'phone. It was clearly a ghastly experience in filthy conditions," he said.

HARARE: After swoops on Tuesday on the Bulawayo offices of the Legion, the Zimbabwean affiliate of the British Ex-Servicesmen's Association, and the Pioneer Association, five elderly whites, including two women and a retired colonel in their 70s, were arrested (Jan Raath writes).

Lawyers representing them said police proposed to charge them under a section of the State of Emergency legislation banning the possession of "offensive souvenirs".

The offence carries a fine of (Zimbabwe) \$100 (£40). None of the five had been ill-treated, lawyers said, apart from the degrading experience of spending a night in the slammer. On Wednesday they were remanded on bail with no charges being put.

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Still doubt on schools pay deal

Teachers and local authority representatives are due to meet at Acas headquarters in London today to sign the deal agreed by four of the six unions last weekend.

A question mark still remains, however, as to whether ratification will go ahead.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, has urged the teachers to reconsider their proposals on the pay structure element of the agreement.

Should any of the unions indicate today a desire to reopen discussions, the date for signing could be postponed indefinitely.

Mr Baker wants to see more promotion allowances in the £608 million he has allocated towards a pay deal.

Chairman of Burton earns £1m

Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman of the Burton Group, has overtaken Mr Richard Giordano, chairman of the BOC Group, to become the highest paid chairman of a British company and the first to be paid more than £1 million a year.

His earnings in the year to August 30 were £1,004,000 - nearly double his 1985 "salary" of £542,000. Now in second place, Mr Giordano received £883,100 in the year to September 30, 1985.

Mr Bob Bauman, the chairman of Bechtel, is reportedly on a salary of just over £700,000. Sir Ralph's basic salary is £200,000, but his total package is related to results.

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1,600 apply for share of papers' £58m offer

News International announced yesterday that 1,600 applications have now been received from former members of staff for termination payments (Tim Jones writes).

Several hundred more letters are outstanding, many of them from people who have requested duplicates of their release forms, having been instructed to hand the originals to their unions.

The company is still receiving applications from former employees who are interested in claiming their share of its final offer of £58 million.

Members of Sogat '82 rejected the offer last month by 2,372 votes to 960, with 17 spoiled papers, a majority of

1,412. The National Graphical Association's members timed it down by 565 votes to 116.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of News International, has written personal letters to all the dismissed employees telling them the offer closes next Monday.

He has emphasised there will be no further negotiations. Under the deal, the former employees would receive £820 for each completed year of continuous service, with a minimum payment of £2,000.

Those accepting termination payments will be expected to sign a document stating they have no further dispute with the company.

Britain issues visa to Iranian envoy

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

In sharp contrast to Washington's high-risk approach to improving relations with Iran, Whitehall yesterday took a cautious step in the same direction. The Foreign Office tried the simple expedient of a visa.

Granting a visa allowing the Iranians to replace their outgoing top London diplomat may have wedged open the door to more normal contacts.

It enabled Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to ask the Iranians yesterday to reciprocate by granting visas for two British diplomats to take up posts in Tehran.

Whitehall to support reform of obscenity law

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is ready to support moves to reform the law on obscene publications by tightening the definition of obscenity in an attempt to make it easier for juries to convict.

MPs who were successful in yesterday's annual private members' ballot were bombarded with proposals for legislation by ministers, whips and a vast array of pressure groups.

The Home Office was active and Conservative MPs successful in the ballot were told that Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, was keen to back Bills to outlaw the sale of crossbows to children, to sim-

plify procedures for obtaining drinks licences and a measure to tackle obscenity. The definition in the 1959 Act, of material likely to deprave or corrupt, has long been held to be too vague, but repeated efforts to change the law through Private Members' legislation have foundered.

Several of the MPs who finished high in the ballot, including Mr Peter Brunt, Conservative MP for Leicester East, who came third, were considering last night whether to introduce such a Bill, which would have the enthusiastic support of the Prime Minister.

Many MPs and anti-pornography campaigners would want to go further, but a limited measure would clearly have

Government support and could therefore reach the statute book.

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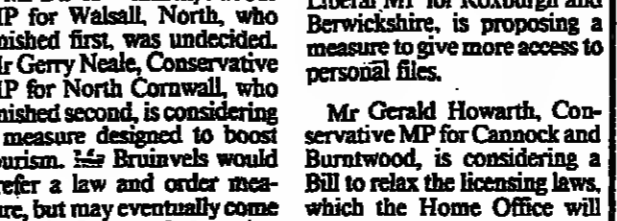
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NEWS SUMMARY

Winter fuel aid system changed

The Government yesterday announced changes in the rules covering extra heating payments for householders on supplementary benefit during very cold weather. Claimants are to get a single payment of £5 a week for every week in which the average temperature is minus 1.5C or less. This replaces the widely criticized system under which the decision on cash aid was based on the extent to which temperatures differed from those normally expected in a particular area in winter. It led to southerners receiving help denied to northerners in the same conditions. The new system applies from December 11 and those entitled to claim are householders on supplementary benefit who have a family member aged 65 or over, chronically sick or disabled or aged under two. Claimants are excluded if they have savings of more than £500.

Ruling on riot film

The BBC was ordered yesterday to give police its video film of the St Pauls riots in Bristol earlier this year. Mr Justice Stuart-Smith, a High Court judge in Exeter, said he was satisfied that the BBC had refused to release the film without a court order. He said it was in the public interest that police should study sections of the footage taken by camera crews during the rioting. That would mean those who committed criminal offences could be prosecuted.

Two die 3 Legion cases in car

Two women drowned yesterday when their car plunged off a ferry boat ramp and trapped them 20 feet under the sea at Fishbourne on the Isle of Wight. The car was submerged for 90 minutes before it could be raised. Last night police were investigating why the car had been on the span connecting the ferry steamer to the shore. The accident happened as the Portsmouth-bound ferry pulled away. Police said it appeared that the women had been trying to board the vessel. A further three cases of the potentially deadly Legionnaires' disease have been confirmed in Gloucestershire. The victims have recovered but doctors are now checking records and doing tests to discover if more people have been hit by the disease without having it diagnosed at the time. Thirteen people have now been affected. Samples taken from air conditioning units in shops and public buildings are being analysed in an attempt to trace a common source of the disease.

Consul suspended

The Foreign Office said yesterday that Mr Paul Kutner, aged 68, a British honorary consul in Perpignan, southern France, who is accused of trying to bribe two British rape victims in France, would remain suspended until French investigations into the case were completed. The bribery charge was made after police bugged Mr Kutner's conversation with the girls in a north London public house, but the Director of Public Prosecutions decided on Wednesday to drop the charges.

Heritage fund plea

The Government's proposed grant of £3 million next year to the National Heritage Memorial Fund is wholly inadequate, Lord Chavris (right), the fund's chairman, said yesterday. At a meeting to launch the fund's annual report, he said important areas of countryside, works of art and other national heritage items would be irrevocably damaged or lost unless more funds were forthcoming.



Bamber to appeal

Jeremy Bamber, jailed for life for murdering five of his family, is to appeal against his conviction. The grounds are believed to include several points of law, including remarks by the judge at Chelmsford Crown Court. The appeal must be lodged by Tuesday, 28 days after his conviction. Bamber, aged 25, was given five life sentences for the shootings at Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex.

Welcome for consumer Bill despite reservations

By Robin Young

The Government's new Consumer Protection Bill will be "a major gain for consumers and a real opportunity for British industry", Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary for Trade and Industry, claimed at its publication yesterday. Mr Channon said that the Bill would give everyone better value for money by improving the design, quality and safety of products, and by improving the information given to people before they buy. By encouraging fair competition and greater use of standards it would stimulate industry to produce safer goods of better design. The Bill covers three main areas. It introduces strict product liability so that consumers no longer have to prove negligence when claiming compensation for damage or injury caused by unsafe or defective products. It provides a general safety requirement, making it a criminal offence for manufacturers or importers to sell unsafe goods. Thirdly it will make it a criminal offence to give consumers a misleading price indication about any goods, services, accommodation or facilities. Consumer organizations have welcomed the Bill as a considerable improvement on the unwieldy existing legislation against unsafe goods and misleading price claims, but they are concerned about two of its provisions. The most important, according to both the Consumers' Association and the National Consumer Council, is the Government's decision to allow manufacturers to claim a defence against product liability on the grounds that the state of knowledge at the time of manufacture did not enable them to know that the product might be dangerous. Mr Michael Howard, the minister responsible for consumer affairs, said: "It will be a very onerous task for manufacturers to show that they did everything they could possibly have done to ensure their product was safe before releasing it. If we did not allow this as a possible defence it would be a great disincentive to the introduction of new products. Innovation benefits consumers as well as producers."

The consumer organizations say that it would be preferable for manufacturers to take out special insurance when introducing new products, and pass on the cost in their prices, rather than to leave individual victims to bear the effects of injuries without compensation. Both France and Belgium have decided not to allow the development risk defence in their equivalent legislation. The consumer lobby is also dissatisfied at the exclusion of primary agricultural products from the general safety requirement. Mr Channon said that this was a policy adopted by all member states of the European Community. Agricultural products were liable to many defects that were not under the control of producers, and were often sold in bulk so that it could be difficult to trace the individual growers of defective produce.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, last night described as "Herculean" the attempts made by many universities to improve links with industry. But, he told his audience at the University of London's 150th anniversary dinner, they were still receiving only 2 per cent of their total income from industrial sources. Mr Baker also announced yesterday, in a parliamentary written reply, new projections of demand for places in higher education. The projections have been issued in a report which has been compiled by the Department of Education and Science which covers demand up to the year 2000. Mr Baker said that the percentage of 18-19 year olds in higher education could be as high as 18.5 per cent if the report's predictions prove to be accurate. The figures are intended for future consultative use with the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body for public sector higher education. Projections of Demand for Higher Education in Great Britain 1986-2000 Department of Education and Science, York Road, SE1.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, reacted angrily last night to criticism of his latest budget, saying those who had misinterpreted the facts were in danger of damaging the cause of the arts. He told business sponsors in London that some lobbyists had turned pessimism into an art form by using colourful and theatrical language to invert their case. The Arts Council, the British Film Institute and other organizations have criticized their allocations for 1987, announced last Monday. Mr Luce said his £339 million budget was a 5.4 per cent increase on this year. The basic provision for the Arts Council had gone up by 3.5 per cent, which was broadly in line with inflation. Real spending on the arts had risen 13 per cent under the Conservatives. Mr Luce told his audience that business sponsorship is expected to have contributed up to £25 million by the end of this year. "This is just one example of how the arts are expanding through a plurality of funding. We must all work together positively, public and private sectors alike, to maintain the expansion of the arts."

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Increase in students predicted

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Pay-cut plea to 800 QE2 crew

More than 800 hotel and catering staff who work on the QE2 have been asked to take a pay cut to help Cunard survive financially in the luxury cruise market. The proposals have led to meetings between the company and the crew, which is being advised by the National Union of Seamen (NUS). The staff is expected to vote on the deal in a secret ballot. Because of increased competition, Cunard, with other companies, is planning to contract out its catering services. It is understood that the existing crew has been told it can apply for redundancy payments and then re-apply for new posts with the Bahamas-based company responsible for the contract. The move is part of the company's strategy to cut costs by employing cheaper foreign labour, according to the NUS. Under the new proposals, a barman serving on the liner would be paid about \$800 (£571) a month - less than he receives at present. But the company maintains, the loss in basic earnings could be made up by a percentage of beverage sales and tips. There could be tax advantages for a crew employed by a foreign contract company because it would be exempt from paying tax at British rates. A spokesman for Cunard said yesterday: "It cannot be denied that the QE2 enjoys a certain cachet, but it only operates as a transatlantic liner for a third of its time. "For the rest of the year, it is engaged in fierce competition with other operators, most of whom operate the system we are trying to introduce." At present, the 57,000-ton liner is undergoing a £90 million refit at Bremerhaven, West German, which, it is estimated, will extend her life by 20 years. The decision to place the contract with a foreign company has led to a big political dispute. However, Trafalgar House, the parent company, has decided to place orders with British companies worth £25 million. The Joplings Steel Castings foundry in Fallow, Sunderland, is to close in February. The closure will mean the loss of 237 jobs.

Dogs find 4 suspect areas on the moors

By Ian Smith Northern Correspondent

Sniffer dogs homed in on four places during yesterday's search for the bodies of children started after information given by Myra Hindley, jailed with Ian Brady for the Moors murders.

Soil samples were sent to the Home Office forensic science laboratory at Chertsey for tests, but Det Chief Superintendent Peter Topping, who is leading the search, warned about being too optimistic. The dogs are trained to find bodies but, he said, they may have only discovered a sheep's carcase. Mr Topping said the spots the eight dogs kept returning to were within yards of each other and would be dug more fully today.

Det Chief Supt Topping, who is leading the hunt, on Saddleworth Moor yesterday.

It was in one of the new search sections, divided in two by the A635 Greenfield to Holmfirth road, that the body of John Kilbride was unearthed in October 1962. Five days earlier Lesley Ann Downey, aged 10, had been found 375 yards away on the opposite side of the road. If the four sectioned-off areas reveal nothing the dogs will switch to other parts of the moor featured in photographs taken by Brady.

How long the search continues depends entirely on the weather. The dogs' enemies are water and ground frost, which destroy scent. If nothing is found within the next month the search will resume in the spring. Mr

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Parliament, page 4

MPs fight check on powers

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Chairmen of the Commons select committees are understood to have agreed yesterday that they would fight any attempt by the Government to restrict their powers. The liaison committee, of which they are all members, met for the first time since the Government tagged a final paragraph on its reply to the defence committee's report on the Westland affair. The paragraph said that it would be instructing Civil Servants appearing before select committees out to answer questions about their own or colleagues' conduct. Publicly the chairmen were saying nothing after the meeting, but it is understood that the mood was one of indignation and defiance. Successive chairmen were reported to have expressed the views of their committees that the Government's ruling would make their work impossible and was an attempt to clip their wings. The committee does not meet again until early next month, but it is believed that there will be behind-the-scenes talks with the Government over and over again. Mr Terence Higgins, chairman of the liaison committee, said yesterday that there had been a general discussion and that the matter would be pursued. "It is much more important to get it right than do it in a hurry," he said. In the Commons debate on the Westland report, however, Mr Higgins eloquently demolished the arguments behind the Government's proposal.

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Ridley to stamp out 'creative' budgets

By Nicholas Wood and Martin Fletcher

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is today expected to warn high-spending councils that he is ready to take tough new action to stamp out "creative accounting".

He will also cite figures showing that around eight million people in cities including London, Manchester and Edinburgh, live under extreme-left control. Meanwhile, Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour leader, who was stung into denouncing the town hall "zealotry" that is giving ammunition to his political opponents, is to have private talks with Mr Bernie Grant, the left-wing leader of Haringey Council.

Mr Ridley has already announced legislation to stamp out deferred purchase deals, under which councils have run up a national bill of £2 billion by removing current spending from Government controls through making deals with finance houses to pay in future years. But Labour local authorities are now trying to evade the clampdown by moves such as debt restructuring, creating special funds, and leasing property and equipment. The Secretary of State will warn them that he is monitoring their activities closely and may amend his draft Bill to give it added teeth. In his speech today Mr Ridley will seek to capitalize on claims that a future Labour government would mirror the antics of far-left councillors running many town halls. He will argue that the figures do not support Mr Kinnock's retort that 99.9 per cent of councils do not attract "lurid headlines" which obscure their "solid and sustained progress". The Labour leader is visiting Haringey to lay a wreath at the memorial to Mrs Cynthia Jarrett, whose death during a police raid on her home sparked the Broadwater Farm riots last year, and to unveil a memorial to Police Constable Keith Blakelock, who was killed during the riots. Mr Kinnock is expected to speak bluntly to Mr Grant, whose council is among the most notorious of the hard-left authorities.

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Surgeon who refused to do heart operation is given reprimand

By Michael Horsnell

A surgeon who argued with a colleague and refused to perform an emergency heart operation on a critically ill patient was found guilty yesterday of serious professional misconduct.

But after a two-day hearing the General Medical Council in London said that in view of the circumstances it would only admonish him.

A question mark now hangs over the career of Mr Felix Weale, aged 62, who argued with his consultant colleague, Mr Frederic Skidmore, over who should carry out the operation.

Mr Weale, who was on call at home as consultant surgeon early on Christmas Eve, 1983, first heard about the patient when he received a telephone call from West Hill Hospital, in Dartford, Kent. He was told a man had been admitted in a critical condition - he was bleeding from the aorta.

Mr Weale assumed responsibility for the patient and ordered Mr Jayantilal Depani, his registrar, to prepare the patient, a cardiologist, aged 62, for major surgery by opening up his abdomen and clamping the aorta.

That was at 8.05am, the hearing was told. But an hour later - after the patient had been anaesthetized and put on an operating table with the abdominal incision complete - Mr Weale phoned the hospital and told a nurse that

he would not be leaving home to carry out the operation. It was then 9.05 - five minutes after the end of his duty rota. He told the theatre nurse that Mr Skidmore should perform the operation.

The complaint against Mr Weale was laid by Mr Skidmore, a hero of the Brighton Grand Hotel bombing who helped save Mr Norman Tebbit.

Mr Skidmore replaced Mr Weale on duty, but after being told the situation by the hospital he rang Mr Weale and said: "Your patient is on the operating table."

After a brief argument on the telephone Mr Skidmore performed the four-hour operation from which the patient recovered, although he later died.

Mr Weale was found to have seriously disregarded his responsibilities to his patient and was found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Professor Hugh Duthie, chairman of the council's Professional Conduct Committee, told him after a 35-minute deliberation: "The committee are seriously concerned about your wilful decision to abdicate professional responsibility towards your dangerously ill patient."

"The committee are in no doubt that you made a gross error of clinical judgement. We deplore the abysmal standard of care you displayed." But he added: "We are

prepared to regard this sad incident as an isolated lapse in your lengthy and otherwise unblemished career. In all the circumstances it will be sufficient to admonish you."

The committee had been told that there was considerable animosity between the two men, and that they rarely spoke.

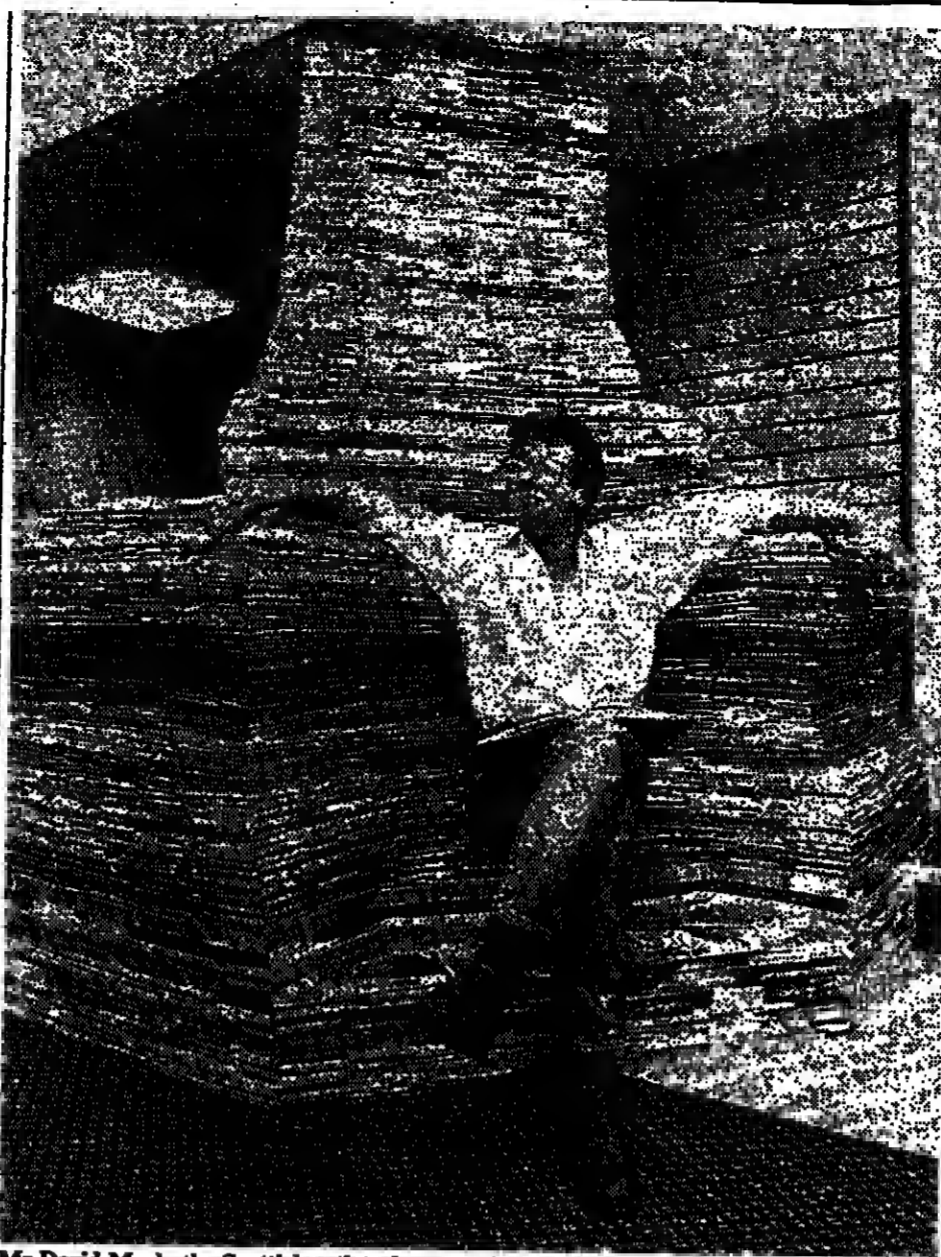
They both left the hearing refusing to comment. Mr Weale had denied serious professional misconduct and said he would have gone to the hospital to carry out the operation if it had been urgent.

He said: "In my mind that patient was being resuscitated and there was ample time before a major consideration of surgery would have been appropriate."

He denied "washing his hands" of the patient and said that timing had not been crucial in the circumstances.

Mr Weale said: "I would have responded instantly if the call had come within one minute before nine o'clock. I would have gone in. I have believed for 40 years in the rota system as the main decision maker as to who does what."

He told the hearing that resuscitation was the most important part of the patient's treatment and that it would only have taken him 15 minutes to drive to the hospital once his services were needed.



Mr David Mach, the Scottish artist who created a submarine out of car tyres in the South Bank complex at Waterloo, perches on his latest work, a sculpture made with 6,000 books and half a ton of magazines. The piece was commissioned by Sherratt & Hughes bookshops, for the opening of its store in Leadenhall Market, in the City (Photograph: Peter Trivnor)

Head is jailed for assaulting pupils

Derek Slade, preparatory school headmaster, was jailed for three months yesterday after he pleaded guilty to assaulting two boy pupils, causing them actual bodily harm by beating them excessively on their bottoms.

"The photograph I have seen of one of the boys' buttocks is sickening to look at," Judge Crocker told Slade at Chichester Crown Court, West Sussex.

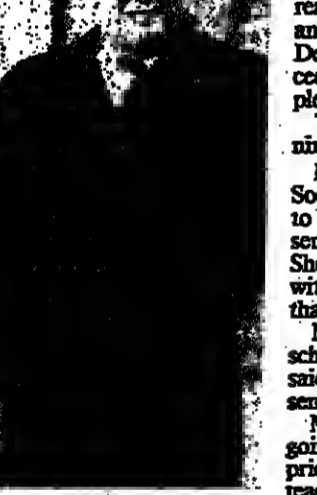
The court was told that Slade, aged 37, beat a day boy aged 11 with the sole of a training shoe for sweating at the Dalesdown Prep school at Dial Post, near Horsham, West Sussex.

Mr Richard Cole, for the prosecution, said the boy later told his parents that Slade made him remove his trousers and underpants and beat down with his hands on his knees and told him not to cry. They were in a locked room with the curtains drawn.

"Gritting his teeth and with his right arm held high he hit the boy with all his force," Mr Carr said.

"After three blows the boy begged him to stop. He was screaming loudly but he was told to bend over again for the last three blows."

Slade followed the boy afterwards to the washroom.



Derek Slade yesterday. He beat boys with sole of shoe.

The reaction of the boy's mother to seeing the nine-inch purple weals and bruises on her son at home that night was one of horror, Mr Carr said.

Slade later beat a boy aged eight six times on his bare bottom with the same shoe sole after ordering him to write a 400-word essay on The Whackings I Have Had for doing poorly at French.

The boy was beaten because his essay was only 363 words long instead of the required 400.

Later Slade rubbed the boy's bottom and told him: "Come on it was not that bad."

Mr Simon Coltart, for Slade, said the parents of both boys did not remove their sons from the school. Mr Andrew Street, chairman of the school governors, said after the hearings parents were canvassed on their views on corporal punishment continuing at the school.

Twenty were in favour of it being retained, and four of five were not.

Judge Crocker told Slade, who stood with bowed head and near to tears in the dock, that he did not accept his view that boys would soon forget their beatings.

"I do not accept that the beating you gave the first boy will be forgotten in his whole lifetime," the judge said.

A third similar charge against Oxford-educated Slade, a Church of England lay reader who has sold the school and now lives with his sister in Derbyshire, was not proceeded with after he had pleaded not guilty to it.

That involved a boy aged nine.

Miss Julie MacFarlane, a Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment representative, listened to the case. She said later: "I am delighted with the custodial sentence that Slade got."

Mr Robin Sanders, the school's deputy headmaster, said he was shattered at the sentence on Slade.

Mr Sanders said he was going to become a Catholic priest and was no longer teaching. He did not believe corporal punishment at the school had been excessive.

My life is in danger, says failed manager

The manager of a failed racing syndicate has told police that some of his clients have threatened to kill him.

Police are already investigating the manager, Mr Paul Sutherland, who lost more than £50,000 of his clients' money in less than six months.

Mr Sutherland's short-lived Chestnut Bloodstock Agency Limited was a new type of venture - the racing investment company.

Shares can be bought in such a company, which owns and races horses, rather than in horses themselves. At the end of the year dividends are paid, or, in some cases, the whole company is dissolved and the proceeds split between the shareholders before the company is reconstituted for the next racing season.

Mr Sutherland, aged 42, from Caerleon in Gwent, set up his company last April, proposing to race four horses. He advertised shares in his syndicate at £450 each. Between 100 and 200 people took up his offer, although Gwent police fraud squad is still trying to establish the exact number.

Mr Sutherland quickly ran into trouble. He was advised by the Jockey Club that he might have been in breach of the Companies Act by advertising shares. He had no winners. Clients who attempted to cash in their shares, as they had been promised they could, were not reimbursed and trainers were not paid.

In September the Jockey Club gave Mr Sutherland fortnight to put his affairs in order and when he failed to do so they cancelled his registration.

Mr Sutherland said yesterday: "I and my family are living in a constant state of terror. I've reported the threats to the police and they don't seem to be interested. The collapse was an honest business failure. All the account books of the company are with the Fraud Squad."

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Mr Sutherland said yesterday: "I and my family are living in a constant state of terror. I've reported the threats to the police and they don't seem to be interested. The collapse was an honest business failure. All the account books of the company are with the Fraud Squad."

£500 fine for Minder star

The actor Dennis Waterman was told yesterday that he could have faced a prison sentence after he admitted driving with nearly four times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

Waterman, who plays the part of the reformed faithbride Terry McCann in the television series *Minder*, was told by Mrs Jean Rooke, the magistrates' chairman: "You realize that you may well have been imprisoned for this offence. A man in your position has a duty to behave in a proper manner."

The actor, aged 38, was fined £500 and banned from driving for three years when he appeared at Guildford Magistrates' Court, Surrey.

The court was told that the offence had cost Waterman, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, a £20,000 advertising contract.

Mr Julian Herbert, for the prosecution, said that a police patrol car crew saw a BMW

Drink-drive charge

being driven in an erratic manner on the M25 at 8.26pm on September 17.

The car was weaving from the roadside lane on to the hard shoulder and back again. The officers smelt alcohol on Waterman's breath when they stopped him.

A breath test proved positive and Waterman was taken to the police station at Leatherhead where he was found to be nearly four times over the legal limit.

Mr Raymond Sturgess, defending, told the court that Waterman had been visiting old friends in a town where he had once lived and had several drinks with them.

"He realized he should not drive so he lay down and had a sleep before he finally set off in his car. He genuinely thought he had recovered."

Mr Sturgess said that Waterman's charity work, which had already raised £2 million, would have to stop.

"It is one of those cases in which when one person suffers others will suffer too. He also has to drive when he's filming and most of his driving is done on public roads. There is very little film-set work," he said.

Mr Sturgess said that Waterman had had only one previous driving conviction and that had been many years ago.

"In my submission it would be wrong to imprison a man of his character for what is more or less a first offence," he said.

Waterman refused to talk after the case. His manager, Mr Deke Arlon, said: "He is quite upset. He is aware of the significance of this."

Mr Arlon said that on the day he was stopped Waterman had drunk four or five large brandies, a couple of pints of beer and had wine with his lunch.

Mr Arlon said that Waterman had feared that the magistrates might want to make an example of him in the run-up to the Christmas drink-drive campaign.

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Favourite emerges in satellite TV race

By Jonathan Miller
Media Correspondent

British Satellite Broadcasting yesterday emerged as the prime contender for the British direct broadcast satellite franchise, with the announcement that Independent Television News has agreed to provide material for a 24-hour news, sport and current affairs television channel.

The announcement may prove decisive in the Independent Broadcasting Authority's consideration of five competing bids for the right to launch a British television satellite. The IBA is expected to award the franchise before the end of the year.

The consortium, owned by Granada, Virgin, Pearson, Anglia Television and Amstrad Consumer Electronics, was already regarded by observers as a strong contender.

In a report published this week by the stockbrokers James Capel, the consortium was said to be the favourite because of a "particularly attractive mix of programming, consumer electronics manufacturing and distribution and marketing skills".

The ITN announcement strengthens the consortium's status as leader, by appearing to guarantee that the group could deliver its promise to provide a made-in-Britain news channel, which it calls NOW.

The IBA, although it has said nothing officially about its preference, is said to put a high premium on a service that will provide informational programming as well as entertainment.

The consortium has promised a three-channel service to include feature films, light entertainment, children's programmes and news.

The NOW channel would be controlled by the consortium, its bid said, but the announcement yesterday said that ITN would retain editorial control over its contributions to the channel.

Two other groups said by Capel to be serious contenders for the franchise are DBS UK - including Carlton Communications, Satchi & Satchi and London Weekend Television - and Direct Broadcasting Ltd, including Ferranti, News International, and Sears Holdings.

Capel said that SatUK Broadcasting, which is headed by Lorbho and Bood Corporation, and National Broadcasting Service - backed by Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian entrepreneur - is unlikely to be seriously considered by the IBA because of its predominantly foreign ownership.

Portfolio Gold - Five share the daily jackpot

Five readers share yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Betty Keen, aged 60, a housewife from Weston-super-Mare in Avon, has played the Portfolio Gold game since it started in *The Times*.

"It is a surprise," she said. "But I am happy to have won."

When asked how she intended spending the prize money, Mrs Keen said: "On gifts for the grandchildren and things for the house. I'll invest what's left over."

Mr Joseph Hughes, aged 33, a Civil Servant from Egham in Surrey, said he was "very pleased".

"When I checked my numbers the first time, I thought that there had been some mistake, like a printer's error," he said.

Mr Hughes said that some of his winnings would be spent on Christmas gifts and celebrations. "I'll put the rest away for a rainy day."

The other winners are Mr F Hamilton, from Helen's Bay in Northern Ireland; Mrs J Gee, of Belzire Park Gardens, north-west London; and Mrs Elizabeth Peyton, of Newton Longville, Milton Keynes.

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
PO Box 49,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.



Mr Joseph Hughes, who plans to buy gifts

Salad days

A computer-controlled mayonnaise factory claimed to be the most modern in Europe and capable of producing 100 tons a week, has been opened at a cost of £650,000 by the Geest food and vegetable company at Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Expert says Aids tests 'unworkable'

Screening travellers and immigrants to Britain for traces of the Aids virus would be of little use, according to Professor Arie Zuckerman, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Our Science Correspondent writes).

The compulsory screening of the whole population for traces of Aids infection would also be "totally unworkable, impractical and undesirable," he says, in tomorrow's issue of *The Lancet*.

Professor Zuckerman writes: "The existence of an estimated 30,000-40,000 infected persons in Britain suggests that an additional contribution of a few infected foreigners is unlikely to be important."

"Moreover, citizens of the home country who travel and visit epidemic areas of HIV, for example San Francisco or Central Africa, may equally well bring the infection in." International health regula-

tions do not provide for any certificate guaranteeing that a person entering any country is free from a given disease, he said. "No country bound by the regulations may refuse entry into its territory to a person who fails to provide a medical certificate stating that he or she is not carrying the Aids virus."

All members of Parliament have been sent a nine-point plan of action on Aids by the Terence Higgins Trust, the leading charity providing information about the disease.

The plan calls for "at least" £50 million to be spent on a public education campaign. The Government should make it clear it does not intend to introduce any form of compulsory testing for Aids infection, the trust says.

The trust continues: "The Government should also institute anti-discrimination measures to protect those found to be infected with HIV."

Professor Zuckerman writes: "The existence of an estimated 30,000-40,000 infected persons in Britain suggests that an additional contribution of a few infected foreigners is unlikely to be important."

Radiation safety levels 'set too low'

A re-analysis of the risks from low doses of radiation by one of the world's leading cancer experts, Professor Sir Richard Doll, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, indicates that safety levels set by the International Commission of Radiological Protection are too low.

After examining evidence gathered over the past 10 years, he suggests that the risks on which safety levels are based have been underestimated by a factor of two.

He was presenting some preliminary findings to The Royal Society in London this month on the possibilities for prevention of cancer. He suggested that the most immediate impact would come through modification of lifestyle.

Sir Richard said that studies he had undertaken have revealed that the risk of contracting cancer from a certain dose of radiation is double the widely-accepted figure given by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

Professor Doll's findings have implications for estimates of the number of deaths caused by nuclear incidents, such as Chernobyl. It also reaffirms concern about the cancer risk from naturally-occurring radioactive radon gas locked in the air of homes built on granite.

This "indoor air pollutant" is estimated by the National Radiological Protection Board to be linked to about 500 deaths a year in Britain through lung cancer.

Workers in the British nuclear industry are exposed on average to less than one-tenth of the existing safety limits and the industry is taking measures to reduce that exposure still further, Dr Mike Thorne, the British secretary of the International Commission of Radiological Protection, said yesterday.

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Adverts for BBC television are still on the cards

The fee for a television licence is to stay at £58 for the next two years. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, told the Commons when he opened a debate on the Peacock Committee report on the financing of the BBC. But he made clear that the Government had not ruled out the idea of advertising on the BBC.

He also made clear that legislation would be introduced to allow for the extension by three years of existing independent television company contracts. This would give the Government time to consider the report's recommendation that future contracts should be put out to competitive tender.

Mr Hurd, referring to the recent exchanges between Mr Tebbit and the BBC about the corporation's coverage of the bombing of Libya, said that the BBC had a responsibility in the licence and agreement to refrain from broadcasting any material expressing its opinion on current affairs or matters of public policy. It had also undertaken to treat controversial subjects with due impartiality.

The Home Secretary had a number of powers, but it was clear that these were to be used only in an emergency or wholly exceptional circumstances. The Government had neither the power nor the wish to control the BBC's normal output.

It was entirely legitimate that any programme which was used that a broadcasting authority was falling below the standards set had an absolute right to say so.

There was no reason why the chairman of the Conservative Party should be deprived of that right.

There was no reason why private individuals or political parties should regard the output of broadcasters with dumb reverence.

It was not noticeable that broadcasters approached the output of politicians with any such reverence. Both learnt, if

commercial television, there had been much grave shaking of heads warning that existing standards of excellence would not survive any disturbance of the status quo.

But he could see no reason why broadcasting should not develop in such a way as to retain high standards supplemented by greater diversity.

The Government was not sure that the committee had got it right in recommending that RT and Mercury be prevented from offering cable television or interactive telecommunications services over those networks. It would consider the proposal in detail.

The recommendation of the committee that pay television systems should be developed was one of the most important and far reaching recommendations in the whole report.

What it proposed was technically and economically feasible, the system could provide both a means of overcoming those undesirable aspects of the licence fee system and providing at the same time a direct relationship between the providers of television services and those who used them.

The committee had commissioned research to provide an economic appraisal of options to subscription television.

The Government judged a more detailed study needed to be done on both the technical and economic questions and had therefore commissioned consultants to carry out a further study, including the impact on the viewer, to be ready by the spring.

"I hope then to be in a better position to assess the potential for possible rise, feasibility and timescale of introducing subscription television in this country," he said.

The idea of advertising revenue replacing the BBC licence fee had been rejected by the committee on grounds of economic principle and price elasticity of demand for advertising. It had made out a powerful case and the ones ousted with those who disagreed to disprove the argument.

"The Government has not yet made up its mind on this issue and I look forward to the arguments to be deployed in the debate today. They will be taken fully into account in the conclusion which the Government eventually reaches."

Once a final decision had been taken on advertising, the Government would decide on the various recommendations by the committee for improving the licence fee arrangements in the short term. The main recommendation was that the fee should remain at £58 for the period from April 1987 to April 1988, that is the third year of the period.

Another significant recommendation had been that ITV contracts should be put out to competitive tender.

High standards and diversity are compatible

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Emphasis on choice in tune with our philosophy

they were wise, to defend themselves vigorously but to watch out for lessons which they could draw from the criticisms brought against them.

If these principles were accepted, the recent exchanges found their proper perspective.

The committee's emphasis on choice by the consumer was very much in tune with the Government's general philosophy and with the broadcasting policy it had pursued since taking office.

The Government asked the IBA to advise on the best way to run the new direct broadcasting from satellite (DBS) service which would provide three new national television channels. In response to that invitation a number of consortia had applied for a DBS licence and the IBA was aiming to make a selection before the end of the year.

There seemed to be a reasonable prospect of progress being made and of a new British DBS service becoming available by the end of this decade.

There was no reason why, as the broadcasting market expanded, there should be loss of the high quality at present provided by both the main broadcasters. Any changes had been suggested, such as the introduction of

Entire cable strategy has collapsed

idents of Enfield have now available direct news of the Thatcherite policies adopted by the right-wing Soviet Government," he added to renewed laughter.

Giving free television licences to pensioners on supplementary benefit was on the right lines. But it did not go far enough. Labour was committed to phasing out completely television licences for pensioners.

If the selling off of Radio One and Two were achieved, the effect on independent local radio would be crippling if not, in many cases, fatal.

Under the Peacock proposals, the ITV and ITR franchises would be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Commercial objectives would reign supreme.

Cable would be sold off to the highest bidder and the restriction of non-BBC ownership would be removed. It would lead to the "Murdockization" of the British electronic media.



Kinnock challenge on spies book

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, challenged the Prime Minister to say why, in 1981, she accepted the decision of the Attorney General not to seek an injunction to prevent publication of Mr Chapman Pincher's book about MI5 which was obviously prejudicial to national security.

There were protests and interruptions from the Labour benches when Mrs Thatcher declined to answer because of the proceedings in the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Particularly since the Government is the plaintiff in that case it would be inappropriate for me to comment, or on matters to issue in the proceedings so long as these continue."

She added that some of these matters might be relevant to the proceedings to court.

On some previous books, there were questions on the order paper for written answer by the Attorney General. He would answer in his own way. Mr Kinnock then sought an undertaking that the Prime Minister would make a full and detailed statement about the additional information which had become available as a result of Sir Robert's testimony.

Meanwhile, would the Prime Minister say why, when these considerations affected Mr Wright's case, they did not appear to affect the case of Mr Pincher, and in another respect did not affect, either, the case of Mr Nigel West, who also wrote a book about spies, in 1982.

Could not the Prime Minister explain, even now, the huge inconsistencies in the Government's approach to these three cases?

Mrs Thatcher: "No. I am standing by the answer I have just given."

"When the case is over we will consider carefully any questions that may be put in the usual customs and conventions."

Doors closed, page 13

PRIME MINISTER

Thatcher accepted the Attorney General's decision?

Mrs Thatcher replied: "Procedings continue in the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Particularly since the Government is the plaintiff in that case it would be inappropriate for me to comment, or on matters to issue in the proceedings so long as these continue."

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Doors closed, page 13

Whitehall pencils last longer

Writing more words with the same pencil, finding cheaper ways of buying the same goods, and other more sophisticated ways of getting better value for money has produced what the Treasury calls "value for money improvements" of about £70 million in the last financial year, and a target of another £100 million this year.

But Mr Michael Willacy, Director of the Central Unit on Pensions, believes that the Government machine provides room for further big improvements of a like kind.

In a written reply, Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the unit was working with departments to install basic information systems.

"Some departments have already taken positive steps in this direction. However further significant progress is needed if the Government is to be able fully to implement government purchasing policies," he said.

Hindley not to get immunity, Hurd tells MPs

The Attorney General had decided not to grant immunity from further prosecution in the case of Myra Hindley, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said when asked for an assurance that should there be evidence to suggest that she was involved in further murders she would not escape the consequences.

Mr Timothy Yeo (South Suffolk, C) had said there was great public concern about the apparent leniency of many sentences given to criminals convicted of violent offences such as child abuse, rape and other forms of assault.

He asked for an assurance that steps would be taken to ensure that sentences for such offences not only allayed public concern but gave the public the protection they deserved.

Mr Hurd said Parliament's job was to make sure that the maximum sentence was adequate. For example, the Government had given full support to the Sexual Offences Act.

It was also important to make clear that those sentenced for this kind of crime should serve long sentences. The Government had put forward a proposal in the Criminal Justice Bill to enable the Attorney General to refer to the Court of Appeal any Crown court case where the sentence appeared to err on the side of leniency.

Mr Norman Adkins (Tottenham, Lab): Will he also call for a report where judges are seen to be sentencing young people with absolute savagery for political purposes?

At the Old Bailey in recent weeks people aged 18 and 19 were sentenced to seven and

HOME OFFICE

eight years imprisonment for throwing stones during incidents in my constituency. Will he try to discourage judges reacting to press reports and pressure for long sentences?

Mr Hurd: No. It would be wrong for me to take that course.

Mr Kenneth Hind (West Lancashire, C): Would he resist the temptation to be lenient with sentencing policy to introduce any statute of limitations in relation to trial for offences committed a long time in the past?

In particular, will he assure the House and particularly the people of Lancashire that should Miss Myra Hindley be involved in two further murders she will not escape the consequences of her dastardly acts?

Mr Hurd: Immunity from prosecution is a matter for the Attorney General. I understand that in this case he has decided not to grant immunity.

The Speaker rejected a request for an emergency debate on the implications of the prosecution and parole in the Moors murder investigation.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Littleborough and Saddleworth, C), who made the application, said that there should be no parole consideration for Myra Hindley in return for information given by her on other matters.

The debate would provide MPs with an opportunity to express public opinion.

New information on pub bombings

Fresh information had been forthcoming during the examination by the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, of the circumstances surrounding the Birmingham public house bombing for which six men had been convicted, Mr David Mellor, Minister for the Home Office, said during Commons question time.

The subject had been raised by Miss Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab) when she asked when the Home Office first became aware that Dr Frank Smees's records were not sufficiently clear to establish the precise formula used in the Griess test he conducted on the six men who were later convicted of the bombing.

Mr Mellor: Following the World in Action programme on October 28, 1985, the Controller of the Forensic Science Service initiated a study to reassess the evidential value of the Griess test. When the relevant case notes were examined in November 1985, it was found they were not sufficiently clear.

Miss Short: Can he tell us whether this in any way explains the inordinate delay by the Home Office in coming to a conclusion as to whether there should be a further inquiry into this case? There is growing concern throughout the country that six men have been locked up for 12 years and were not guilty of the offence.

Mr Mellor: I cannot agree. It is right that matters as serious as this should be subject to thorough investigation and consideration.

It may interest her to know that some further points have only emerged this month in the form of a final letter from Mr Mullin, author of one of the

books on the bombing and, on November 10, a letter from the West Midlands Constabulary dealing with this investigation.

We shall announce the outcome of our deliberations as soon as possible. I find it astonishing that as a Birmingham MP the Statesmen are not guilty. She is fully entitled to say the matter should be looked at, but for her to rush into judgement in that way seems to be shockingly one-sided. I am astonished she could get away with it in that city.

Mr Terence Davis (Birmingham, Hodge Hill, Lab): It is not a case of rushing into judgement and deciding people are guilty or not. We need an inquiry to settle this matter. Mr Mellor: It is not a matter of judgement and it is a matter of basic human rights.

Mr Mellor: The Home Secretary is considering whether to use the powers given to him by Parliament to refer matters of this kind to a court of inquiry. This requires fresh evidence. The question of whether there is going to be fresh evidence is being considered carefully.

As another Birmingham MP I would have thought his constituents would have wanted balance in this consideration. Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs: If there has been a miscarriage of justice the Government ought to be taking a very different attitude, because if these convictions are wrong then not only have people been wrongly imprisoned, but dangerous criminals are still at large.

Mr Mellor: It is not for the Government to say whether these men were guilty or innocent.

Policy lurch 'aimed at election'

The following is a summary of yesterday's resumed debate in the Commons on the Queen's Speech.

The lurch in policy for which the Chancellor of the Exchequer now claimed credit was not intended to promote the best interests of the country but to further the interests of the Conservative Party and Conservative MPs in marginal seats in a general election, Mr Roy Hattersley, who was then spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs said.

Opening the resumed debate, he said that the policy lurch would fall in its splendid objective. But there was no doubt about the purpose of Mr Lawson's swerve.

"It is a pretence which can only be sustained for a few months, a pretence which is only intended to last for a few months. The pretence is that the Government has suddenly developed a compassionate concern for housing, health and education."

In the words of *The Spectator*, the Conservative Party now offered a collection of economic policies which might have fallen off the back of a lorry.

The Chancellor had become the Arthur Day of British politics and the central sale of Britain's national capital assets was the most despicable of all his little leavers."

Mr Hattersley, who was moving an amendment regretting the economic policies in the Queen's Speech, continued with a general attack on the Government's handling of the economy. He said Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that the Opposition had not deviated from the failed nostrums of the past. Mr Hattersley said he would be apprehensive of the forthcoming general election. "He is a very worried man."

He criticized the record of Labour administrations and spoke optimistically about the future of the economy.

QUEEN'S SPEECH

About the only area of economic policy where there was a measure of unity and clarity between the Opposition, Mr Lawson said, was public spending - they all wanted as much of that as they could get. The total cost of Labour's irresponsible pledges was rising all the time.

Mr Lawson said that new pledges made at Blackpool. A winter heating premium would cost nearly £200 million; a higher Christmas bonus for pensioners another £100 million; the abolition of stamping charges for pensioners, £550 million; new policies on energy, at least £350 million; and the latest pension increase promised by Mr Michael Meacher, £8 billion a year. All in all, that meant yet further spending commitments of £9 billion a year.

The Government had fostered the conditions in which a million jobs had been created during the lifetime of this Parliament.

The Opposition said Government policies brought no hope to the unemployed and might bring more hope than the knowledge that more jobs were being created, week in, week out? The latest figures suggested there was now a downward trend in unemployment.

So the Government had achieved a combination of low inflation, rapid growth and rising employment by the consistent pursuit of an economic strategy based on a firm monetary and fiscal policy.

The Queen's Speech, and much of what Mr Lawson had said, was to poverty, unemployment, falling standards in health and social services and the appalling state of much of Britain's manufacturing industry.

Britain was facing the prospect of an economic crisis after the election.

There was a serious imbalance in the economy. In the short term, it was out of gear. The earlier corrective action was

To make share ownership simpler and more attractive, Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) said he was delighted that unemployment had fallen by the largest amount for 13 years. But the tragedy of this country was that part of it was being achieved by the rest of it was running down.

It was very difficult to tell those in the North that they just had to get down to the South. In the present economic conditions, there was nobody to whom they could turn for help or hand over their mortgages.

"I welcome the expansion which the Chancellor has announced in expenditure. Some of us have urged it for a long time. It is not going to have as much effect as many would like."

"He will still have to make the decision as to whether he should go for reducing taxation or for better expenditure on other things. I hope he will not go for treating the unemployed as a burden on the labour mobility. At the moment housing was more in a ruck than ever before. It was right to encourage people to have private houses but there would always be some who required local authority housing. That was where the Government was not providing the answer to labour mobility."

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, said that unhappily for Britain the past seven years had not just been a story of an intellectually arrogant Chancellor who got the theory and practice of macroeconomics wrong. It was also a story of seven years of havoc, destruction and misery.

The Opposition amendment was rejected by 354 votes to 206 - Government majority 148, and the Queen's Speech, 326.

The motion thanking the Queen for her Speech from the Throne was carried by 350 votes to 205 - Government majority, 145.



Mr Heath: Tragedy of a divided country.

brokers. He was laying the draft regulations for the scheme before the House today so that, subject to approval, it could begin on January 1.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, said that the question for the House was how irrelevant the Queen's Speech, and much of what Mr Lawson had said, was to poverty, unemployment, falling standards in health and social services and the appalling state of much of Britain's manufacturing industry.

Britain was facing the prospect of an economic crisis after the election.

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Supplies to Iran queried

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was challenged to justify the "persistent supply" of military equipment from this country to Iran since she had been in office by Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, during question time.

"In view of her decision not to do anything to prolong or exacerbate the Iran-Iraq conflict, how does she justify the sale of spare parts of Chieftain tanks and Scorpion armoured cars used on the front and sold in 1985?" he asked.

Mrs Thatcher said the policy had been set out by the usual Secretary on October 29, 1985.

"There were some contracts which were placed and paid for during the time of the Shah. Some of these things, in very small quantities, have been sent. Others remain in this country."

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Petroleum Bill, second reading; Debate on European Community budgets for 1986 and 1987. Tuesday: Coal Industry Bill, second reading; Wednesday: Debates on Opposition motions on bus deregulation and on J. E. Hauger and Co. Thursday: Criminal Justice Bill, second reading; Friday: Banking Bill, second reading; The main business in the House of Lords will be: Tuesday: Pilotage Bill, second reading; Wednesday: Debates on the arts and on academic medicine. Thursday: Family Law Reform Bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on Aids.

Peers fear for their estates

The Family Law Reform Bill, which removes the remaining disadvantages from illegitimate children, has raised fears that it could lead to the illegitimate offspring of peers trying to succeed to their titles.

Lord Sudeley, an hereditary peer who can trace his ancestry back to Edward the Confessor, is pursuing the issue which strikes at the heart of the House of Lords, where more than 700 of its members succeeded to their titles.

Although the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St

marylebone, has emphasized that it is not the intention of the new Bill to alter the descent of titles "of honour and the Crown", it may open the way to large estates being broken up in inheritance disputes.

The Bill is designed to do away as far as possible with the need to describe children as "illegitimate". It will put those born out of wedlock generally on the same legal footing as legitimate children.

But the Crown Office rules, 1927, which state that titles descend to children provided

they are "lawfully begotten", will still be valid. It is likely to be disputed in the Lords, which is due to give the Bill a second reading next Thursday, that it merely replaces the word "illegitimate" with "unlawfully begotten".

Lord Sudeley, who describes his recreation in *Who's Who* as "ancestor worship", has put down questions to the Lord Chancellor to clarify the legal position of illegitimate heirs. Either the Bill merely changed the words used to describe children born out of wedlock, or it altered the succession rights, he said.

Alliance broadcast

Steel and Owen unity show

Alliance leaders are to appear on television next week in an attempt to exorcise the ghost of the Eastbourne defence debacle and to emphasize their new-found unity over the key election issue.

An SDP party political broadcast next Wednesday will feature Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen telling the country that their two parties have buried their differences over the future of Britain's independent nuclear deterrent and are now firmly committed to maintaining and, if necessary, replacing Polaris.

They will also assert that, on the basis of opinion poll evidence, the electorate supports the Alliance policy of keeping the existing nuclear capacity, in marked contrast to the Labour commitment to scrap it or the Conservative

programme to upgrade it via Trident.

Alliance election strategists have ruled out either a special assembly of the Liberal Party or a joint convention of parliamentary candidates as a platform for repairing the damage done by the conference vote which repudiated the two leaders' quest for a minimum European deterrent.

They consider that such a potentially risky course is now unnecessary after endorsement of the nuclear option by the Liberal parliamentary party, the policy committee and the national executive.

Mr Charles Kennedy, SDP MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye and a former BBC radio reporter, will act as "anchor man" for the broadcast, which is likely to exclude an extract from Mr Steel's defiant speech at the end of the Eastbourne

conference in which he denounced the non-nuclear vote as a "breath-taking misjudgement".

After Eastbourne the Alliance poll rating fell as low as 17 per cent, although it has since begun a slow recovery, reaching 22 per cent in the latest Gallup survey for the *Daily Telegraph*.

Dr Owen is known to regard the highly publicized defence split as a disaster for the Alliance and is now intent on gaining the maximum media exposure for the moves to heal it.

Yesterday, Mr John Carrivright, the SDP defence spokesman, said the Alliance is now more united over defence than at any other time in its history. By embracing Polaris the Liberal Party had made a "dramatic departure" from its policy of the past 25 years.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Local government finance

Council spending laws seriously flawed and need review, MPs say

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Government legislation introduced in 1981 to control the capital expenditure of local authorities has proved to be "seriously flawed", a senior Commons select committee concluded yesterday.

It also notes that government forecasts of local authority net capital spending have been wildly out, and says that since these forecasts form the basis for the Government's plans and policies for the following year, we are concerned that they should continue to show such wide margins of error.

The Government has acknowledged the weaknesses of the present legislation, and published a green paper outlining two possible alternatives - control through the imposition of external borrowing limits and control of gross capital spending rather than spending net of in-year capital receipts.



Mrs Mopp fulfils her dream to be 'mayor'

A retired cleaner climbed into the mayoral chair at Lewisham Town Hall yesterday and held a mock council meeting while the real mayor, Mr Norman Smith, donned a pinstripe and got on with the cleaning.

Mr Smith had nothing but praise for his temporary deputy. "It's hard work this," he said, as he cleaned on his hands and knees. "But it's worth it to make Daisy's day. She's had a struggle all her life so it's time she had a day of pleasure."

Police 'hired to kill Gandhi'

A man from Leicester said to be the ringleader of a gang of Sikhs that allegedly plotted to kill Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, told Birmingham Crown Court yesterday he was trying only to settle a bad debt.

Mr Jarnail Singh Ranuana, aged 46, a company director of Cannon Street, Leicester, said a friend had told him that he could contact members of the IRA who would be able to recover his money for a 10 per cent fee.

Mr Ranuana claimed that his former business partner had cheated him out of £300,000. He wanted to recover the money and so he had agreed to his friend's suggestion. "I agreed with them getting the money but I didn't want my partner harmed," he told the court.

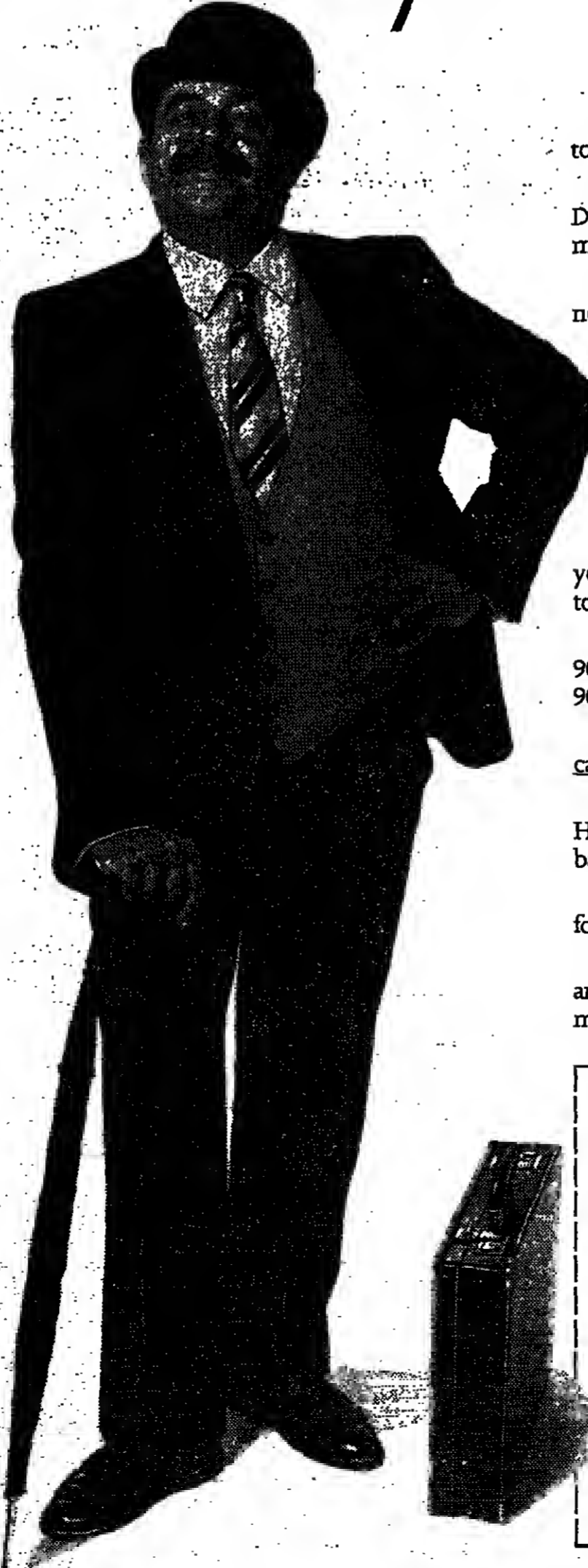
Problems of car tax cases

The "deserious" level of fines imposed on car tax dodgers, which were condemned by a Commons Select Committee on Wednesday, were yesterday explained by a senior chief clerk at a London court.

Girl shot herself in game

A girl, aged 12, killed herself with her father's shotgun in a game that went tragically wrong, a coroner said yesterday.

Please don't worry about Sid, his money's in the Halifax.



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Football club fire inquiry 'stopped'

A safety inspector was told by the Health and Safety Executive to stop investigations into the fire at Bradford City Football Club, the High Court sitting at Leeds was told yesterday.

Letters produced by the executive showed that meetings had taken place between the fire authority and safety experts. But this was not brought up at the inquiry.

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Study of sex crime raises concern over child abuse

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A high proportion of sexual crime is committed against children, according to the annual criminal statistics for England and Wales published yesterday. The figures will add to mounting concern about abuse of children.

A survey of information held by 18 police forces estimates that 24.9 per cent of recorded buggery and indecent assaults on males were on boys up to nine years old, and a further 36.7 per cent on boys aged 10 to 15.

The peak years for indecent assault on girls are 10-15 (28.2 per cent) and 12.1 per cent were against girls aged nine or under.

No less than 20.8 per cent of rapes recorded were against girls aged 15 or under.

This week, Mr Douglas Hogg, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Home Office, said: "Child abuse is wicked and shameful. It is a blot on our society and a stain on our national character."

Mr Hogg was speaking as chairman of the standing conference on crime prevention, which in the next 12 months will concentrate on young people and crime. One of its working groups will consider child abuse.

The police figures are for 1984 and also show that males had a higher risk of robbery than females but a lower risk for theft from the person, most victims of both types of offence being aged under 40.

The annual criminal statistics, which are for 1985, differentiate between offences initially recorded as homicide and those that are currently so.

Offences currently recorded as homicide have risen over the past 10 years from 443 in 1975 to 563 in 1985.

Those attributed to gang warfare, feud or faction rose to 10, the most in the last 10 years.

For the first time in that period there were no homicides attributed to acts of terrorism recorded. A footnote says that one offence occurred in 1985 but was not recorded by police until this year.

The total number of offences initially recorded as homicide in the 10-year period from 1976 was about 30 per cent higher than in the period 1966 to 1975.

Since January 31, 1983 courts have been able to award compensation orders as the sole or main penalty. In 1985, about 3,400 such orders were made (3 per cent of the total), compared with 2,600 in 1984.

The peak age of known offending per 100,000 population was 15 years for males and 14 years for females.

The most law-abiding police force area was Dyfed-Powys, with 3,734 notifiable offences recorded per 100,000 population; the most crime prone was Greater Manchester with 11,202, less law abiding even than the Metropolitan Police District, London, with 10,257.

Overall the number of offences per 100,000 population has risen from 1,054 in 1950 to 6,885 last year.

The statistics say that much of the growth in the overall total of offences in which firearms were reported to have been used was due to criminal damage and air weapons offences.

But in 1985 a total of 9,700 offences were recorded by police involving firearms, the highest figure recorded and 16 per cent above that for 1984 and 1982.

Criminal Statistics England and Wales 1985, Command 10 (Stationery Office, £14.20).



Villagers taking part in the blessing ceremony for the oak which has replaced the elm at the centre of Ramsbury (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

Village unites around oak

The battle of Ramsbury's tree ended in reconciliation yesterday with the planting of a young oak in the village square.

The oak replaced the Wiltshire village's legendary elm, which stood at the centre of village life for more than 300 years, so loved by residents that it took four years of argument to decide to cut down the dead and diseased stump.

Yesterday, a month after the elm was felled, a 30-year-old oak from Epping Forest, donated by the West of England Building Society, was lowered into the waiting hole and blessed by Bishop John Neale, of Ramsbury.

The bishop said: "With a life expectancy of 400 years, the tree is a symbol of faith in the future."

Mr Charlie Braxton, aged 76, one of the oldest residents, and Simon Randall, aged five, picked by lot from Ramsbury Primary School's youngest class, helped to keep in earth. Mr Braxton is said to have proposed under the old tree.

Mr George Hawes, chairman of the parish council, sees the planting as the main achievement of his four-year term of office and an important issue for the spring elections.

He said: "The tree is the centre and symbol of Ramsbury, the living tree represents the growth and rejuvenation of the village."

Divided as they may have been over the fate of their old tree, Ramsburians are united in pride for their warm and neighbourly community.

Mr and Mrs Bad Quick, from Vesuvius, Virginia, fell in love under the elm during the war, when Mr Quick was stationed at the US base outside the village. His wife-to-be had been evacuated from London. Yesterday they came back to represent US servicemen at the ceremony.

Mr Quick said: "I hope the oak will be for the young folks what the old tree was for us".

One thing is certain. The curse of Maude Toppard, the witch who lived in the Great Elm, that no girls would be born in the village if the tree was cut down, has not come true. The old spirits of the village must be satisfied.

Jobless recruited to combat crime

By Ronald Faux, Employment Affairs Correspondent

More than 200 long-term unemployed men and women in Northumbria are to join the police force and help to fight crime.

Some of them have been jobless for more than a year. They are to assist Northumbria police with their inquiries under a Manpower Services Commission community programme, which is managed by the force.

Some will act as assistants to men on the beat, others will free officers from time-consuming desk duties to spend more time in the community detecting and preventing crime, a spokes-

man for the Northumbrian force said.

The 23 "beat assistants" will accompany police officers on the beat as "non-sworn civilians" in civilian dress. They will help neighbourhood watch and victim support schemes, deliver crime-prevention literature and liaise with community groups.

Northumbria police has set up 700 neighbourhood watch schemes, 400 in the past year.

The aim of the programme is to raise the prospects of the unemployed finding a permanent job by giving them confidence and a sense of hope.

Fresh call for inquiry into sea disaster

By Angella Johnson

Relatives of 44 crew members who died when a British cargo ship, the Derbyshire, sank mysteriously in 1980, have called on the Department of Transport to hold a public inquiry into the loss.

Over the years three shipping ministers have turned down demands for an inquiry. But relatives are hoping their campaign will carry greater weight after the discovery of serious cracks in a sister ship, the Kowloon Bridge, which was forced to seek shelter off the west coast of Ireland yesterday.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, the Under Secretary of State for Transport, has already ruled out the possibility of further investigations. But last night the Department of Transport said it would be monitoring events following the Kowloon Bridge discovery.

Mr Neil Rapley, whose brother died on the Derbyshire, said he wanted an inquiry to establish if construction faults contributed to the sinking.

"I am convinced the ship floundered because of cracks caused through the way it was constructed," he said.

"I believe an inquiry will clear the names of the crew who are always suspect when something like this happens."

Six ships of the class were built by Swan Hunter on Teesside. At least two have been found to have cracks in the bulkhead area, at the rear of the ships. Mr Rapley believes such cracks may have caused the loss of the Derbyshire.

The Derbyshire was carrying a cargo of iron ore when it was lost in a typhoon in the Pacific. There was no distress message and no wreckage or survivors were found.

The Kowloon Bridge was on its way from Canada to Scotland with a similar load when cracks were found on its bridge.

Both Swan Hunter and Bibby, owners of the Derbyshire, are being sued by relatives of the men who disappeared with the ship.

Britain 'best' for quality of water

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Britain's record in complying with EEC directives on water quality and pollution is the best in Europe, a survey by the Water Authorities Association claims.

Its findings, which include a "league table" of actions brought before the European Court, are based on the analysis of a report published by European Environmental Bureau.

Belgium is the worst of the list of offenders, followed by Italy, although there are many proceedings against Greece which have yet to be heard.

In contrast only Britain has had no actions brought before the European Court in the environmental field, the survey claims.

The news will come as a surprise to environmental groups, since four of the 10 water authorities in England and Wales have had to request exemption from EEC directives on the level of nitrates in drinking water supplies.

At a meeting of the National Farmers Union in London yesterday, Mr David Naisb, the deputy president, urged the Government to initiate more research on the use of nitrogen fertilizers.

He said: "Increasing levels of nitrates have been recorded in water supplies. There is no positive evidence of public health being affected at present, but we acknowledge that the trend must be checked."

Builder is freed on 11 charges

A man was released from custody yesterday after 11 firearm and robbery charges against him were dropped.

Mr George Ince, aged 50, a builder, of Fairfield Road, Bow, east London, had been held in custody on one robbery charge, three charges of attempted robbery, three charges of conspiring to rob and four of unlawfully having firearms for robbery.

Before leaving the dock at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, Mr Ince was charged with dishonestly handling a quantity of stolen road fund licences.

He was granted unconditional bail to appear at Waltham Forest Magistrates' Court on December 11.

£63,000 for worker who dare not laugh

Mr Robert Bradshaw, a factory worker who must not laugh because it triggers asthma attacks, won £62,991 damages in the High Court yesterday for disabilities caused by exposure to chemical fumes at work.

Mr Bradshaw, aged 66, of Darwen, Lancashire, has been told he has five years or less to live, Mr Justice Rose said.

The judge said that ventilation at the factory was inadequate and he ordered Mr Bradshaw's former employers, Crown Decorative Products, of Darwen, who denied liability, to pay the damages and costs.

Assault on Marilyn

Matthew Fitzgibbon, aged 51, a taxi driver of Peterborough Road, Leyton, east London, appeared before magistrates at St Albans yesterday accused of assaulting Marilyn, the pop singer, on October 18 at the Park Street roundabout in the town.

Mr Michael Demidecki, defending, told the court his client would be pleading not guilty and wanted to go for trial before a crown court jury. The case was adjourned until December 18.

Miners given loan deadline

Northumberland County Council yesterday imposed a six-week deadline on 500 miners' families who have not started paying back money lent during the pit strike.

The council, which is owed £90,000, gave a warning that unless the families agreed to start paying by December 31 they could face legal action.

Letters, The Independent, 17th November.

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MPs defend reform of parole as 'valuable'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A parole scheme reform which cut the prison population by 2,000 is being defended by MPs against attack by some academic lawyers and members of the judiciary.

The all-party Penal Affairs Group has urged Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, to stand by the recent extension of the parole scheme to include many short-term prisoners.

The MPs say that yielding to the criticism by repealing or truncating the measure which brought in the reform would result in a substantial rise in the prison population.

Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North and the group's acting chairman, says that while it understands the argument of the critics, the group does not accept it.

"Those who criticize the new arrangements argue that they are unacceptable because in their view there is now no practical difference in most cases between a sentence of nine months, 15 months and 18 months, as all are likely to result in six months' custody, followed by release on parole."

Mr Wheeler says the argument assumes that release on parole for short-term prisoners is virtually automatic. That is not the case, he says. More than 20 per cent of short-term prisoners considered for parole do not receive it.

Secondly, the longer the sentence, the longer the period for which the released prisoner is subject to parole supervision and liable to be recalled to prison if he does not co-operate.

Mr Wheeler has told Mr Hurd: "We hope you will continue to resist any proposals to reverse this valuable reform."

"When it was introduced, this measure reduced the prison population by about 2,000, from 44,433 on June 30 1984 to 42,448 on July 31 1984. Without this measure, therefore, the prison population today would be 2,000 higher."

A remarkably low recall rate of 2.6 per cent showed that many prisoners could be released under supervision after shorter periods in prison without risk to the public, Mr Wheeler says.

Stylish landing for new Beaujolais

By Robin Young

The wine trade's busiest day of the year succeeded yesterday in distributing record amounts of Beaujolais Nouveau to all parts of Britain by means as diverse as Chinese rickshaws, antique water skis, parachute and horsewoman.

The rickshaw raced the new wine to a Chinese wine bar in Kensington, central London; the mahogany water skis dating from the 1920s were employed to complete a delivery to a Berkshire country club; three parachutists descended on Bournehead, and the horsewoman galloped into a Lake District hotel dining room with the wine, just in time for lunch.

At Festival Pier, Odéon, the wine merchants, had moored a vessel which, they claimed, had laid a cross-Channel pipeline for Beaujolais and was pumping the wine ashore direct from France.

A Roberts & Cooper special delivery to Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street went by more conventional means.

Sadly, after all the effort, consumer reaction was not very enthusiastic. The 1986 vintage is no match for its excellent predecessor, and many found the wines thin.



Miss Niki Zan, aged 23, from Shepherd's Bush, toasting rickshaw driver Mr Charles Duesbery while delivering Beaujolais to a wine bar yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris)

BBC aims to raise £5m from appeal

The BBC hopes to raise more than £5 million from this year's Children in Need Appeal, which includes a series of television and radio programmes today.

Over the past six years the annual appeal has collected more than £11 million to improve the quality of life for children who are sick, handicapped, deprived, abused or neglected.

Mr Terry Wogan, the television personality, and his fellow fund-raisers are determined to break last year's record sum of £4.5 million, which was given to more than 4,500 different causes. It provided equipment, play facilities and holidays for underprivileged children.

"It should not be hard to beat last year's record with the line-up that we have in store for viewers today," said Mr Wogan, who will co-host a star-studded, seven-hour programme, which is the culmination of a week of fund-raising activities throughout the country.

Highlights of this year's events include an interview with Princess Anne and a tap dancing record-breaking attempt by Roy Castle.

"We're out to amuse, inform and entertain, but ultimately we want to raise money for those children in this country who are so desperately in need of it. Let's make another fairy story come true this year," Mr Wogan said.

At Victoria station, 30 London firemen will be converging on commuters this morning.

They will be dressed in full firefighting gear, brigade uniforms and fancy dress, and hope to persuade travellers to part with £10,000 in cash.

Sub-Officer Ron Kendall, from Plumstead fire station, said: "I hope that everyone who sees us at Victoria today will dig deep in their pockets and help push our total into five figures."

Choirs throughout England will also be raising their voices to raise cash for Children in Need. The BBC's high-flying Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir will be jetting around the country to sing with eight other leading choirs at airports in Lancashire, Belfast, Glasgow, Gateshead, Birmingham, Tredgar, Luton and Weybridge.

The Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic will be decorating a Tyne-side Metro "tube" train for a Twenties-style party to commemorate the launch of the first Children in Need appeal on BBC radio in 1927.

And 15,000 members of the National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland will today participate in a wide variety of fund-raising events, including motorway service station collections and charity auctions.

Overdose a mistake, GP says

A doctor who allegedly injected a fatal overdose of drugs into a terminal cancer patient should have been able to see clearly the amount he was injecting, Leeds Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, for the prosecution, said the strength of phenobarbitone ampoules administered by Dr John Carr was marked on their box in "quite large numerals plain for all to see".

Dr Carr, aged 59, from Branch Road, Lower Wortley, Leeds, denies the attempted murder of Mr Ronald Mawson, a terminal lung cancer patient, in August last year.

Mr Mawson, a retired Leeds engineer, died two days after the injection.

Dr Carr said the 1,000mg dose was injected by mistake instead of 150mg. The intended dosage would have helped Mr Mawson to sleep better.

Other barbiturate sleeping drugs were found in the doctor's car which would have been suitable, Mr Rivlin said.

Mr Rivlin asked if Dr Carr told Mr Mawson's wife that he would not want any breakfast because "he is not going to wake up".

Dr Carr replied: "I said something to the effect that it was no good giving him breakfast while he was in this condition".

The hearing continues today.

Cemetery ban on slate lifted

A ban on the use of Welsh slate for headstones at a cemetery in North Wales was lifted yesterday by Aberconwy Borough Council.

Only granite from India or South Africa has been permitted for headstones at Llandudno's new public cemetery at Llanrhos, although there are quarries 30 miles away.

The ban had been imposed because of an agreement with Mostyn Estates, the previous owners of the land, to ensure conformity. Mr John Davies, the council chief executive, said that the company now had no objection to grey slate being used.

Film check on school cyclists

A school at Abingdon in Oxfordshire has employed a college student to film pupils who ride cycles to and from school, in a bid to cut down on recklessness.

More than 500 pupils of Larkmead comprehensive use cycles for their journey and motorists have complained about behaviour on the road.

Marsh safe

The 935-acre Frampton Marshes site near Boston, Lincolnshire, has been bought for £375,000 by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

"There comes a time when silence isn't golden."

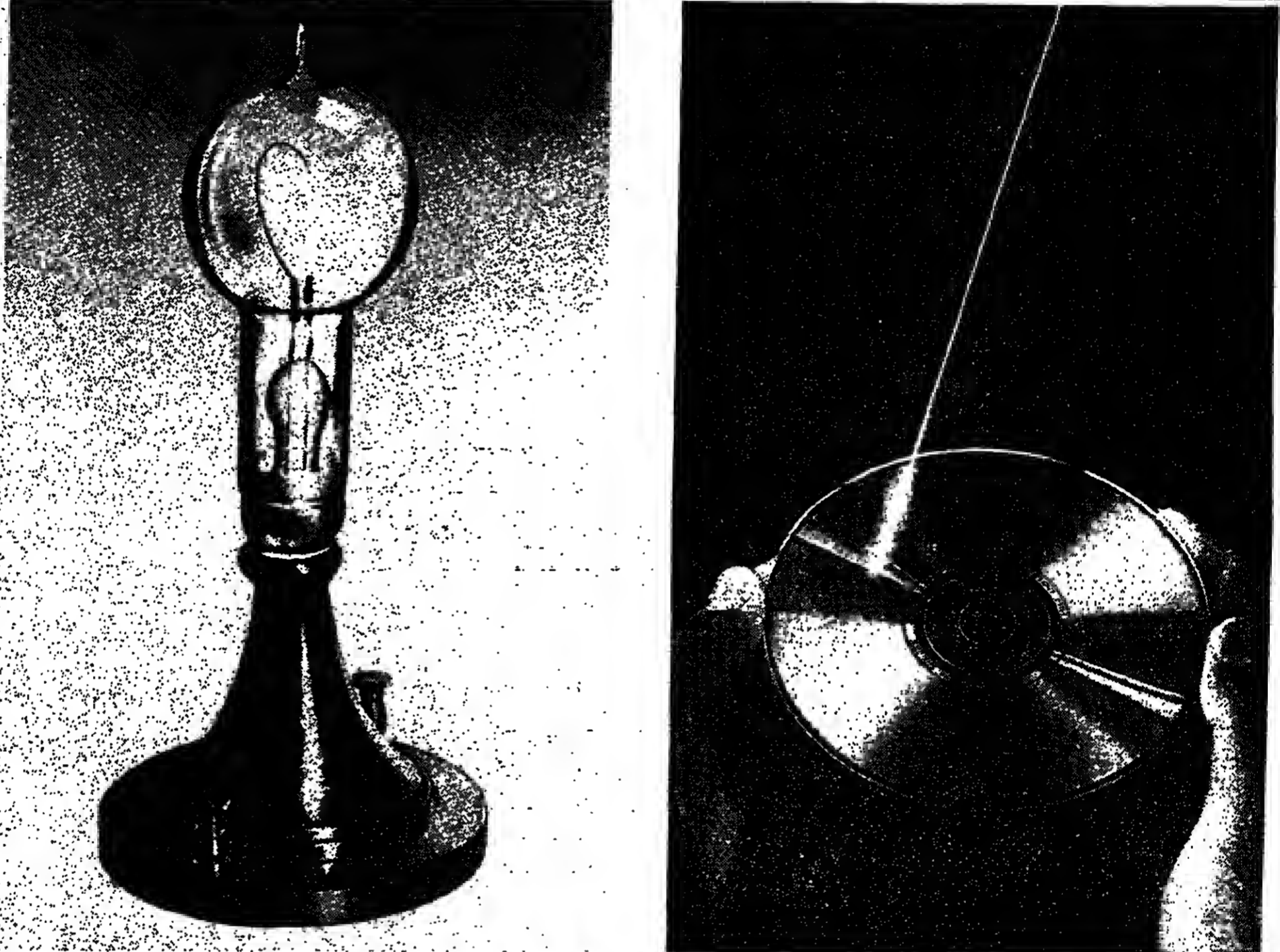
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Security zone attack

Car bomb kills Unifil men at checkpoint in south Lebanon

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — A car bomb exploded at a United Nations peacekeeping post in southern Lebanon yesterday, killing three Fijian soldiers and two Lebanese civilians.

Two other Fijian soldiers and three civilians were wounded in the attack on a vehicle at the checkpoint six miles south of the Lebanese port of Tyre, opposite a position manned by the pro-Israeli "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia.

Mr Timor Goksel, a UN spokesman, said it was unclear if the car had a driver because it was blown to bits.

The last suicide car bomb attack in southern Lebanon was carried out by a woman on July 17 in Jezzine, a town held by the SLA. Then, five men were wounded.

At least 20 suicide attacks have been carried out against Israeli and SLA posts, remaining after Israel withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon in 1985.

The operations, which are mostly the work of Syrian-backed groups, had fallen off in recent months.

A Frenchman was the last UN soldier killed in Lebanon. He died of wounds from a bomb explosion on September 13.

Mr Goksel said 135 troops had died in action since the creation of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) in 1978.

He said yesterday's explosion took place just a few yards from an Israeli-declared border "buffer zone" patrolled by Israeli and SLA militia.

Security sources in the area said it was not known whether the explosion was aimed at the SLA or Unifil.

Recent guerrilla attacks on



A woman, holding aloft a pitcher of water and a plastic bottle of cooking oil, during a protest against shortages of electricity, water and fuel and the spectacular collapse of the Lebanese pound. The demonstration disrupted Beirut yesterday.

Unifil troops have heightened concern over the ability of the nine-nation force to maintain order.

The UN set up the peace-keeping force to oversee the withdrawal of those Israeli troops who invaded Lebanon in 1978, and to arrange for the Lebanese Government to extend its authority to the Israeli border.

Israel invaded again in 1982, but withdrew the bulk of its troops in June 1985 and set up the security zone.

Britain and Syria clash in UN terrorism debate

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

For the first time since the rupture of relations over the Heathrow airport bomb attempt, Britain and Syria clashed sharply at the United Nations over the issue of terrorism and Damascus's involvement in the incident as the General Assembly engaged in a debate on the US retaliatory strikes against Libya.

Responding to remarks by Mr Abdel Moumen al-Atassi, the Syrian representative, that Britain's aid for the United States in the attack on Libya in April left it with bloodstained hands, Sir John Thomson, the British delegate, renewed the charge of Syrian complicity in the Heathrow incident.

There was conclusive evidence of Syrian officials' involvement and nothing would alter that fact, Sir John said.

Mr al-Atassi said he defied the British representative to produce proof of his allegations.

He said that Syria condemned and rejected terrorism because it was itself a target of terrorists, but there was a fine, though clear-cut, line between liberation actions and terrorism.

WORLD SUMMARY

Churches take on aid to families

Johannesburg (Reuters) — The South African Council of Churches (SACC) yesterday said it was taking over assistance to families of political detainees formerly provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which has been expelled from South Africa.

Mr Beyers Naude, the SACC general secretary, said the council would pay fares for families to visit the estimated 20,000 detainees and would distribute payments to compensate for food parcels the ICRC had been giving to families.

Mr Naude said the annual cost of the programme would be approximately R500,000 (£158,000) and the council was appealing to churches inside and outside the country for donations.

South Africa expelled the ICRC last month in retaliation for its delegation being barred from a meeting of the organization in Geneva.

Karmal departs

Islamabad (Reuters) — The Afghan President, Mr Babrak Karmal, replaced as Communist Party leader last May, was relieved of all government and ruling party offices yesterday, nearly seven years after he came to power.

Kabul Radio said Mr Karmal was relieved of his offices at his own request at a meeting of the Revolutionary Council, Kabul.

Treason charge

Lisbon — Portugal is to bring charges of treason against the leader of the Azores Liberation Front, Dr José de Almeida, for recent statements claiming independence for the islands, both in the Azores, and at a press conference in Lisbon on Wednesday (Martha de la Cal writes).

It found guilty, Dr de Almeida would be liable to 15 to 20 years in prison.

Kahane in US row

Kansas City (Reuters) — The Israeli militant anti-Arab politician, Rabbi Meir Kahane, was free on bail yesterday after being arrested on disorderly conduct charges in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park.



Rabbi Kahane and two other men, one described as an Arab and the other as a Jew, were charged after interruptions to his speech that resulted in a scuffle, police said. There were no injuries.

Rabbi Kahane, who founded the Jewish Defence League (JDL) in the United States, was suggesting that all the Arabs should leave Israel, or they should not have voting rights.

Poaching protest

Belgrade (Reuters) — Yugoslavia has protested against Italian poaching in its territorial waters after a Yugoslav patrol shot dead an Italian fisherman on Wednesday, alleging repeated violations of Yugoslav waters by Italian fishermen.

Offer spurned

Madrid — The Spanish Government believes there is no acceptable change in the offer to negotiate on self-government and sovereignty made by a spokesman of Eta's military wing on French television on Wednesday night (Richard Wigg writes).

Sweden off blacklist

Stockholm (Reuters) — Sweden has been taken off a US blacklist of countries which Washington fears might allow advanced Western technology to fall into Soviet hands, a Swedish newspaper said yesterday.

The science weekly *Ny Teknik* quoted senior US defence officials as saying Sweden had been removed from the list since it tightened rules on exporting technology this summer. The move means Swedish firms would find it easier to import advanced technology from the United States. The newspaper said about 15 countries were still on the US blacklist.

Corruption allegation

Image of Moro the martyr tarnished

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The nearest the Italians had to a political martyr was Signor Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in 1978. It is an ironic coincidence that the re-emergence of similar tactics in France is accompanied here by attacks on the Moro image of integrity.

Signor Moro was the main story in the world's newspapers for many of the 55 days in which he was in the hands of his captors.

His brutal murder made him at the time the most illustrious victim of Europe's urban guerrillas of the far left. Now he is accused posthumously of being a party to corruption and of exporting illegally gained capital for safekeeping in Switzerland because of fears of a coup d'état.

The allegations are being made in the course of a Turin trial of people accused of involvement in the huge oil scandal of the 1970s which cost the state the equivalent of £150 million in lost revenues.

Some of the proceeds are said to have gone to finance political parties. So far, evidence is totally lacking that Signor Moro's group within the Christian Democrat Party drew on these illicit funds.

Two sets of allegations have been presented in court about funds said to have been made available to the Moro group, Signor Sereno Freato, one of the accused who was a close associate of Signor Moro, said that a sum to the equivalent of £50,000 was deposited in a Swiss bank to make provision for "someone who might have to flee the country".

The money came, according to Signor Freato, from well-wishers who had financed Signor Moro's election campaign. Legislation followed on the export of capital and Signor Moro himself said that the cash should be brought back into Italy by a leading figure in the oil industry, Signor Bruno Musselli, who is one of the principals accused in the oil scandal.

He hotly denies Signor Freato's version and told the court: "I exclude categorically that such a man as Aldo Moro would have accepted to open an account in Switzerland."

The most surprising aspect of all is that Signor Moro's widow has gone to extreme lengths, including the risk of being charged with false testimony, to back the Freato version.

At one point in the proceedings on Wednesday, the judge pointed out that the very existence of the Swiss account had yet to be proved and, he told Signora Moro, "you understand that by choosing to side with Freato, you are indirectly risking to compromise the memory of that illustrious politician who was your husband."

More than siding with the man whose thesis is so damaging for Signor Moro, the widow's intercepted telephone calls to the Freato family indicate that she was willing to change her account of events if this would help Signor Freato.

The question of whether the Moro memory is smeared with the oil scandal has a political importance far beyond the outcome of this trial.

Signor Moro was the conscience of the Christian Democrat Party especially after his death. He was an ineffectual Prime Minister but he coaxed a reluctant party into taking two historic steps: its alliance with the socialists in the 1960s and the agreement with the communists in the 1970s.

Aldo Moro: claimed to have had a Swiss bank account.

Israelis say 'terror boat' destroyed in air raid

Jerusalem (Reuters) — Israeli helicopters destroyed a boat used by Palestinian guerrillas in the port of Sidon yesterday during the third air raid around the southern Lebanese town in five days, an Israeli Army statement said.

Reports from Lebanon described the vessel as a fisherman's boat and said that one person was injured. The Israeli statement described it as a "terrorist boat" but gave no other details.

It said that all Israeli helicopters returned safely to base and a spokesman dismissed earlier Lebanese radio reports that an aircraft had been shot down by ground fire.

It was the sixteenth Israeli air raid on Lebanon this year in a policy which the Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, says is aimed at preventing Palestinian guerrillas from re-establishing bases in the south, within striking distance of Israel's border.

On Sunday Israeli jets hit what an Army spokesman described as a naval base of the Fatah movement of the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Yasser Arafat, near the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp, which is just south of Sidon.

The raid followed the capture of boats carrying weapons and three Palestinian guerrillas off the southern Lebanese coast earlier that day.

On Monday Israeli helicopters pounded another outpost near the Ain al-Hilweh camp belonging to the Syrian-based Popular Struggle Front.

Helicopters safe: All the Israeli helicopters which took part in the raid on the Palestinian base near Sidon returned safely, according to an Israeli military spokesman (Ian Murray writes).

The spokesman denied firmly that any Israeli aircraft had been lost during the raid.

Shamir on Iraq, page 11

Dixons

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Iran arms crisis: ● Ayatollah gloats ● Shamir stonewalls ● President struggles

US overtures shunned as Khomeini rejoices at Reagan's 'scandal'

Tehran (Reuter) - Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, yesterday rejected American efforts to establish ties with Tehran.

Speaking on the affair for the first time, he told a gathering at a mosque beside his north Tehran home: "One thing I congratulate everyone on is the great explosion which has occurred in Washington's Black House and the important scandal which has gripped leaders of America."

"It has now been revealed that those who threatened and broke relations (with Iran) have come pleading to this nation, wanting to establish relations and making apologies... the nation does not accept. This is something higher than all your victories," he said.

The Ayatollah spoke only hours after a Washington news conference in which President Reagan assumed sole responsibility for the secret overtures, conceding the policy had provoked debate among his top advisers.

He devoted part of his 15-minute speech to strong criticism of those people who, he said, were repeating foreign propaganda and creating discord among Iranian officials.

Apparently referring to a question in Parliament from seven deputies about the US contacts, he said: "The tone of what you gave to Parliament is harsher than that of Israel; than that of the very people who sit in those palaces (American leaders)."

Iranian officials who have spoken on the controversy have denied reports that Iranian authorities negotiated with Washington's emissaries. But a formal question put to the Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, this week by

seven deputies seemed implicitly to confirm the reports.

"It is heard that persons outside the framework of the Foreign Ministry contacted and negotiated with the American delegation," said the question, printed in the *Resalat* newspaper.

"Please state whether they were sanctioned by the Foreign Ministry and, if not, what was the legal authorization for their contacts," it added.

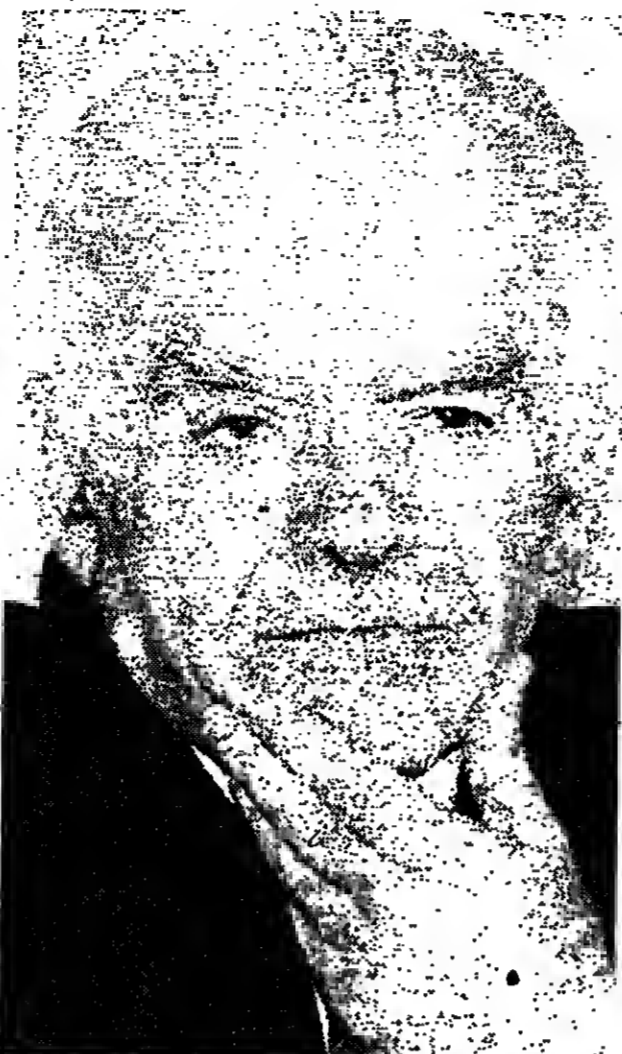
The signatories also wanted to know who made the decision for the contacts, at what level they took place, who negotiated with the Americans in Iran, what they discussed and the outcome of the talks.

"Why should you be influenced by foreign propaganda, or by your own egotism?" the Ayatollah asked. He said those who raised such questions were either ignorant of developments or were doing it for

purpose. Following the criticism, it appeared highly unlikely that the question would be pressed in Parliament.

He said the Soviet Union was also "tracing with the US for relations with Iran".

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, weighing a reply at a lunch with the foreign press in Jerusalem.



Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, weighing a reply at a lunch with the foreign press in Jerusalem.

Shamir fends off pointed questions

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel is doing all it can to help the Jews in Iran who are suffering continuing persecution, Mr Yitzhak Shamir said here yesterday. But the Prime Minister refused to say whether that included sending arms to Tehran.

Answering questions from the foreign press, largely about alleged Israeli involvement in any Iranian arms deal, he was, even by his own tight-lipped standards, secretive. His possible hints that Israel could have been involved might just as easily be interpreted as denials.

Asked about the plight of Iranian Jews, he said: "We do what we can to help. We do it in the framework of the possibilities we have. We are looking all the time for means to help our brothers."

He refused to speculate if Israel would be prepared to send arms if it believed this would help to free the Jews in Iran. "There are some questions when you are faced with a dilemma and you have to consider all the aspects of them. But I do not go into speculation."

He would not comment on the latest White House admission that "a third country" had been involved in sending American arms to Iran. "Voo

will not expect me to say something contradictory to President Reagan's statement," he said. "But it is our policy not to publicize details about what is going on about arms sales. It is not our policy to sell arms to Iran."

Pressed further, he insisted: "I have nothing to say about it. Nobody has mentioned Israel. It is not our policy to publicize details about arms sales."

He was equally reticent about Mr Mordochaj Vanunu, *The Sunday Times*'s nuclear informant, who was allegedly spirited from London to an Israeli jail.

"We are not obliged to give any promises to any country," he said, when asked if he could promise no laws had been broken. "We have always stated the fact that we have not violated any British law and that this person left Britain on his own volition."

He did not think his Government had been pressured into revealing that Mr Vanunu had arrived in Israel, although his convoluted answer indicated that there were problems with Britain. "We decided to do it after we had taken into consideration all the possible developments," he said.

Refinery shut down by Iraqi air raid

Bahrain (Reuter) - One of Iran's two largest active refineries, a plant at Esfahan, was shut down a week ago, apparently because of an Iraqi air raid, oil sources in the Gulf said yesterday.

Iraqi raids during the six-year Gulf War have badly damaged Iran's refining capacity, forcing it to import refined products.

The Esfahan refinery was designed to produce 240,000 barrels per day (bpd) but has turned out as many as 300,000. Iraqi jets bombed the city on November 12, but it was not clear what damage was caused to the plant, which was hit by Iraqi jets in March.

Mr Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the Iranian Oil Minister, said in Geneva last month that all Iran's refineries, with the exception of the big plant at Abadan, which was destroyed at the beginning of the war, were again working at full capacity, but oil sources thought some of them still had problems.

The oil sources said an 80,000-bpd refinery at Tabriz also appeared to have been damaged this month, but they were not sure if it had been shut down.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

momentum of the controversy will be kept up in the interval before the new Congress assembles in January.

Both the press and Congress are being given the ammunition to fire at the President from within the Administration itself. Disclosures have been flowing from the State Department and the Pentagon, both of which were

Disclosures from State Department

deliberately excluded from the Iranian operation. They have probably also been coming from dissidents within the National Security Council.

It is this combination of an aggressive press, an assertive Congress and indignation from inside the Administration that is so potent.

The Administration's divisions have another effect as well. I am sceptical of the speculation that Mr Shultz might be forced out. I cannot see that any moment will come when it would suit Mr Reagan for Mr Shultz to go.

If he were to leave while the storm was still raging it would directly undermine the President. If Mr Shultz were to resign later it would revive the issue.

So if he goes it is likely to be of his own accord. But, whether he stays or goes, the evident disapproval of the Secretary of State inevitably lends powerful credence to the criticism.

All the signs, therefore, point to the Iranian venture remaining a running story, which must be just what the Administration wants most to avoid.

It will absorb energy and time which the Administration can ill afford at this stage in its life. It will accelerate the drift of key personnel from the Government back into private life.

Above all, it threatens to erode Mr Reagan's personal influence when he needs it most to preserve the authority of his presidency after the loss of the Senate.

In his press conference on Wednesday evening President Reagan illustrated the nature of his dilemma over the Iranian arms deal. He has not only acted in a way which most Americans deplore; he has also offered an explanation which most Americans do not believe.

He cannot, therefore, close the controversy on his actions either by confessing his blunder or by offering a better explanation without admitting that he had been previously misleading. That is why I believe he now faces a political crisis from which he will have great difficulty in extricating himself.

In every tight corner up till now he has always managed to win the confidence of the American people. Even his critics have acknowledged ruefully that he seems to possess a magic gift which has enabled him to be untouched by any failure.

However, while his popularity rating still seems to be holding up, pretty well, his authority has been affected this time and a combination of factors seems likely to keep the storm rumbling.

The press has suddenly become much more aggressive in its approach to the President. At his press conference he looked a hunted man. The questioning reflected not a professional adversarial relationship, but sheer disbelief.

Ever since his election six years ago until now Mr Reagan has been treated with unusual respect by the press.

Reagan has look of a hunted man

This was partly because it was wary of seeming too tough towards such an outstandingly popular leader and partly, I believe, because it became nervous of its own power.

After destroying Mr Nixon, its glare proved too much for Mr Ford and Mr Carter. It was appearing too adept at pulling presidents.

But now the press appears to believe that Mr Reagan has been treated with too much deference for too long. It seems to sense that he has become vulnerable at last. This may be partly because the arms deal crisis follows so swiftly upon the Republican setback in the mid-term elections.

So now the press is ready to get after the President in a much rougher way, subjecting the details of his explanation to searching scrutiny. Nor will the press be alone in that attitude.

Now that the Democrats have recovered control of the Senate that approach will be evident in both Houses of the new Congress as well. Already congressional hearings are to begin on the issue, though the

drifted across neighbouring West Germany. Until the alert was lifted yesterday morning, the concentration was liable to irritate the eyes and throat. People still suffering from ooze, throat and digestive tract discomfort from the Sandoz fire cloud were particularly vulnerable.

Because some doctors have reported the persistence of these symptoms, the Basle authorities are asking 300 volunteers from the city and 300 from the surrounding cantonal districts to undergo blood and urine tests. Cynics, who say the Basle public should be issued with gas-masks, suggest the initiative for this may have come from the chemical industry, because it is confident nothing will show in tests of this kind.

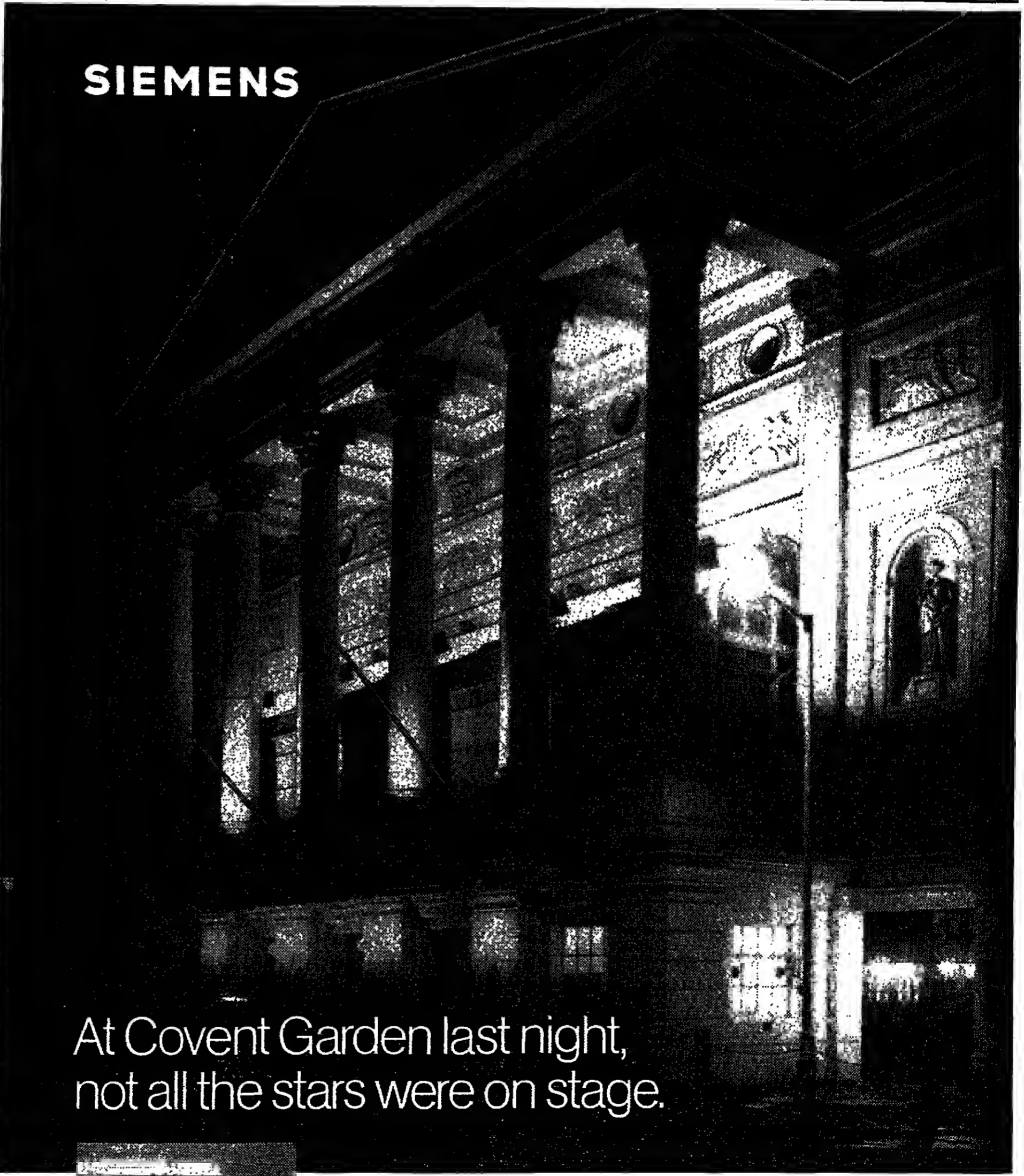
Basle wakes up to yet another gas leak

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

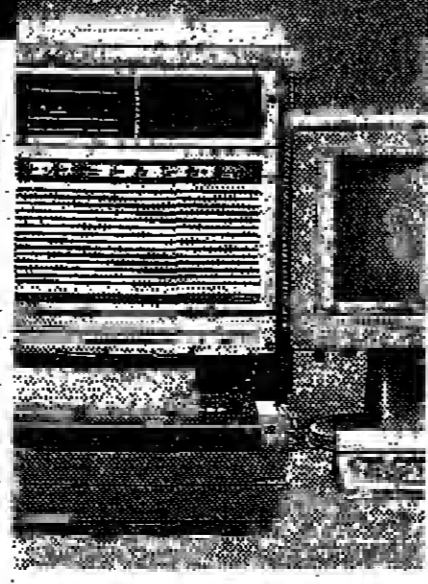
For many people in Basle there was a nightmarish quality about being woken in the middle of the night again by police cars with loudspeakers telling them to close all windows.

This time it was an escape of phenol gas - carbolic acid - from the Ciba-geigy chemical works at Murtens, just beside the Sandoz plant where a warehouse fire on November 1 produced a toxic cloud and the ecologically disastrous pollution of the Rhine.

"Human error, a mistake in manipulation" is the company description of what happened when, during large-scale testing of an epoxy resin, the temperature reached 260 degrees Centigrade with the emission of a phenol cloud. This diluted gradually as it



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New private enterprise law is no revolution for Russia's 'chastniks'

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Soviet citizens were yesterday trying to assess the implications of the controversial new law sanctioning 29 forms of individual or family enterprise, hailed by some Western commentators as a "minor revolution", but seen by many Russians as a legalization of the status quo.

A number of people interviewed by *The Times* expressed scepticism that the law on individual labour would bring any sweeping changes to the economy when it comes into effect in May.

Others, relying more on hope than conviction, spoke of a possible improvement to the country's woefully inadequate consumer services.

All believed that the changes would probably be most keenly felt in the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania where economic experiments have traditionally been ahead of the norm in the rest of the country.

"If the law had made things like they are in Hungary, then the changes would have been greater and we would have faced the danger of crowds leaving the state sector to try earning more roubles working privately," said Gennady, a Muscovite, aged 36. "As it is,

no one can hire another worker, so nothing of any great size can emerge."

After the initial excitement provoked by the passing of the law in the Supreme Soviet, many Russians have adopted a more questioning approach, emphasizing the very strict limitations imposed on any private business.

"The only families who can work together are those who live under one roof, and then only after doing a day's work in the state sector," Gennady said. The case of Olga, aged 50, a Soviet dressmaker who has been operating for years from her small flat in a south Moscow suburb is typical of the hundreds of thousands of *chastniks*, private workers who are already plugging the yawning gaps left by the inefficient communist economic system.

Under the new law Olga (whose telephone number is passed from hand to hand by members of Moscow's smart set) will continue to operate as she does now, in her spare time — the main difference is that she will have to pay a new tax on her private earnings.

The other difference in her thriving little business — whose up-to-date designs are copied mainly from European magazines — is that she will

have to go to the local Soviet authorities before May 1 to seek a permit.

The need for Olga and other members of the vast army of *chastniks* is that although they charge higher prices than their state equivalents, they produce better work, more quickly and are much more flexible in accommodating the demands of individuals.

"I can see nothing wrong with going to a private dressmaker. It never really crossed my mind to do otherwise, just as I used to send my son to private kindergarten. It cost more money, but he was looked after much better," one of Olga's clients said.

A Soviet official said that by legalizing the existing private sector (with the exception of black marketers), it was hoped to entice more people to join it.

Soviet intellectuals noted that the new law fell far short of the New Economic Policy introduced by Lenin in 1921.

The current vogue for NEP among influential Soviet economists has led diplomats to speculate that the new law may only represent a cautious first step which Mr Mikhail Gorbachev intends to develop later.

Leading article, page 21



Police carrying away a demonstrator who tried to block the entrance to a Nato site at Hasselbach, West Germany, where cruise missiles are to be based. The police, who had arrived yesterday to keep watch on the authorized protest shortly before it was due to begin, found that about 100 anti-nuclear demonstrators were already blocking the four gates of the base, south of Koblenz. Organizers said that the demonstrators arrived in the middle of the night, well before they had been officially expected. There were no arrests, police said. The demonstrators plan to stay two days outside the base, where 96 cruise missiles are due to be deployed by the end of next year.

German terrorist tried again for Schleyer murder

From John England, Bonn

A former Baader-Meinhof gang terrorist, who is accused of involvement in the kidnapping and murder of a leading West German industrialist in 1977, went on trial in a heavily guarded Düsseldorf court yesterday charged with the crimes for the second time.

Rolf Klemens Wagner, aged 42, was sentenced by the same court in March 1985 to two life terms for taking part in the abduction of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer, president of the West German Employers' Federation, in September 1977 and his "execution" six weeks later.

The Federal High Court quashed the verdict and sentences and ordered a retrial because the lower court had allowed a conversation between Wagner and a prison governor to be secretly tape-recorded.

Wagner is alleged to have been the terrorist who telephoned Dr Schleyer's family with ransom demands and the lower court wanted to compare his voice with tapes of the kidnappers' contact man made nine years ago.

The federal court ruled that the jail recording was inadmissible, and the lower court must now decide if the rest of the evidence against Wagner is sufficient to convict him again.

Wagner is already serving a life sentence in a Swiss jail for the killing of a woman passer-by during a bank raid in Zurich.

Dr Schleyer was kidnapped in Cologne in an ambush in which his driver and three bodyguards were shot dead. He was found dead in the boot of a car in Mulhouse, near the French-German border, six weeks later after West Germany's crack GSG9 anti-terrorist unit had freed the passengers and crew of a hijacked Lufthansa airliner at Mogadishu airport in Somalia.

That action was followed by the suicides in jail of the old Baader-Meinhof gang ring-leaders, Andrea Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raspe, which sealed Dr Schleyer's fate. He was killed by several shots in the head.

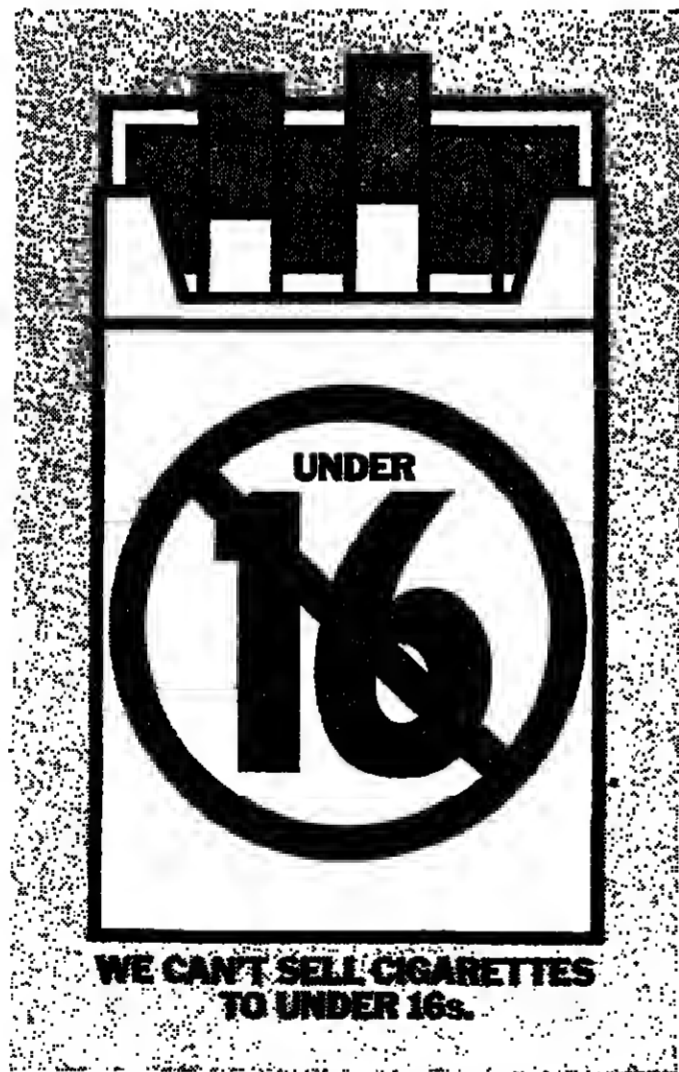
Wagner was excluded from the court yesterday after creating a disturbance.

Recurring drive: The Federal Criminal Bureau in Wiesbaden said yesterday that the Red Army Faction, successors to the Baader-Meinhof gang, had increased its efforts to recruit new sympathizers to its cause to help organize cars and hideaway flats. "It appears that the terrorists are having problems in finding replacements for drop-outs," a spokesman said.

Court close some of Sir

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Cabinda oilfields targeted by Unita

By Nicholas Beeston

Reports of increased guerrilla activity in Angola's oil-rich Cabinda enclave may herald a new offensive by anti-government Unita forces with grave consequences to the country and the region, according to Western diplomats and Angolan officials.

Latest reports from Luanda say that guerrillas mounted an attack two weeks ago against the heavily defended airport at Cabinda, the most recent in a string of ground assaults, which could constitute a switch in strategy by Unita's leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The offshore oilfields at Cabinda, operated by the US company, Chevron, produce two-thirds of Angola's oil exports, with the commodity providing 93 per cent of the country's foreign currency earnings last year and effectively bankrolling its 11-year war against Unita.

Officials of the Marxist-led Government in Luanda suggest that Unita's latest attempt to sabotage the Cabinda operation would not be possible unless the rebels were allowed to use bases in neighbouring Zaire.

Publicly Luanda has refrained from accusing Zaire of aiding Unita, but privately Angolan officials suspect the country is working with the US and South Africa by turning a blind eye to Unita operations launched from its territory.

A Unita spokesman in London denied that his movement received any assistance from Kinshasa and said that the latest offensive in the north was the result of "increased activities" and an "ongoing campaign".

"We do not reveal where we attack from," he said. "We have to hit the Government where it hurts most, and that means the oil installations."

In the past, South African commandos and Unita forces have launched hit-and-run sabotage operations in Cabinda, but never a concerted military campaign.

Ironically, the campaign against the Chevron oilfields coincides with the covert CIA anti-communist operation, approved by President Reagan, to equip Unita with sophisticated weapons.

Unita has so far refused to comment on reports from neighbouring Zambia that the arms have been shipped via Zaire, but admits that it has "received everything that was promised" by Washington.

Experts believe the new arms supplies and the reports of a new offensive in the north could shift the strategic balance in Unita's favour and increase the pressure on the Soviet-backed Government in Luanda to extend its war effort or contemplate a negotiated settlement.

Guerrillas seek talks on British captive

Lisbon (Reuters) - Right-wing Mozambican rebels are demanding direct negotiations with the British Government for the release of Mr Ian Robertson, a captured British agricultural engineer.

Mr Paulo Oliveira, spokesman in Lisbon for the Mozambican National Resistance, said that the MNR leader, Mr Afonso Dhlakama, had ordered that conditions for his release be discussed directly with the British Foreign Office instead of the International Red Cross.

The ICRC was handling the cases of other foreigners captured during an attack on Ulogue on the weekend of November 8/10. Three West Germans and a Portuguese were also seized.

Egyptian tomb from 2000 BC

Cairo (Reuters) - Egyptian archaeologists have uncovered the tomb of a pharaonic prince at Saqqara, the desert site of the prototype step pyramid.

The tomb, dating back to 2400 BC, is well preserved and hieroglyphics show that it belonged to Eri, a sixth dynasty prince.

Wall jump

Berlin (Reuters) - A 33-year-old East German man escaped over the Berlin Wall to the West during Wednesday night, successfully ducking a hail of bullets from communist guards but breaking his leg in the 14ft jump to the western side.

River open

Ayamonte, Spain (Reuters) - Fishermen in 50 small boats lifted a three-day blockade of a river crossing between Spain and Portugal yesterday after officials agreed to study demands for a bilateral agreement in the frontier zone.

2,000 held

Seoul (AP) - Government reports submitted this week to the South Korean National Assembly show that 2,011 students are being held in connection with recent anti-government demonstrations.

Snake post

Sydney (Reuters) - Two West German tourists have been sentenced to six months in jail for attempting to post 135 live snakes and lizards out of Australia.

Pie-eyed

Nairobi (AFP) - Police have arrested a Kenyan man who drove his car at high speed for a mile along railway tracks in central Nairobi while drunk. He said he had eaten a samosa, a kind of small Indian pie, which disagreed with him.

Double charge

Bulawayo (Reuters) - Private taxi owners in Bulawayo, infuriated by "huge and overweight" passengers, have started charging them double, because each fat passenger takes up the space of two people and costs them business.



Dr Jonas Savimbi: switch in Unita's strategy under way?

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over Ches eration poll

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Thatcher statement to Commons under scrutiny

Court closes its doors to hear some of Sir Robert's answers

Mrs Thatcher's statement to the Commons in 1981 about Sir Roger Hollis, former Director-General of MI5, had not been a comprehensive account of the investigation into claims that he was a Soviet double-agent, Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, agreed here yesterday.

But it had been as full as the limits of an oral statement allowed and he believed it accurate, Sir Robert told the Peter Wright book hearing in the New South Wales Supreme Court.

Sir Robert, in his third day in the witness box, was being cross-examined by Mr Malcolm Turnbull, former Minister for the Environment, who asked: "Why is it not possible to be comprehensive in the House of Commons?"

Mr Justice Powell, who is hearing the Government's application for an injunction to suppress Mr Wright's book, described the cross-examination as trying to show that Mrs Thatcher's was "a deliberately misleading statement in an attempt to put out the fire and quieten the people."

The court went into closed session for more than an hour yesterday after Sir Robert declined to answer in open court suggestions that Lord Victor Rothschild, a senior adviser to Conservative governments, had procured publication of Mr Chapman Pincher's book, *Their Trade is Treachery*.

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney
The Cabinet Secretary also refused to make any statement that might have had the effect of confirming the existence of MI6, Britain's external counter-espionage service. Counsel for the Government explained that no government official had ever done so before, although it was later pointed out that Sir Robert had inadvertently done just that during Wednesday's hearing.

Mr Justice Powell agreed to hear an amendment of the Government's pleadings today and extended a deadline

for production of secret documents to Monday.
Mr Turnbull had earlier described Mr Pincher as a journalist of known right-wing views and suggested that the Government had chosen him as being suitable to make public the investigation of Sir Roger Hollis which was disclosed in *Their Trade is Treachery*.

Mr Turnbull suggested to Sir Robert that Lord Rothschild, former head of a Tory think-tank, was also a trusted adviser on intelligence matters. Sir Robert replied that he thought that "an over-statement".

Mr Turnbull: Did Victor Rothschild discuss *Their Trade is Treachery* with you before publication?
Sir Robert: No.
Mr Turnbull: Have you

THE MI5 CASE

received any reports from the security services concerning Victor Rothschild's role concerning *Their Trade is Treachery*?

Sir Robert: I would not wish to answer that in open court.
Mr Turnbull: Have you learned from other than the security services that Victor Rothschild procured the publication of *Their Trade is Treachery*?

When Sir Robert repeated that he did not wish to answer this in open court, Mr Justice

Powell cleared the public gallery.
Earlier, Sir Robert confirmed that, even after the furore over the Hollis allegations in *Their Trade is Treachery*, senior civil servants and politicians had continued to associate with Mr Pincher.

Mr Turnbull: One of his better contacts in the Government is Sir Michael Havers (the Attorney-General), isn't it?
Sir Robert: I have no information for that. I don't know if they have close relations.

Mr Turnbull: Another of his better contacts is Sir Arthur Franks (former head of MI6).
Sir Robert: I believe they meet from time to time.
Mr Turnbull asked whether Sir Robert knew that on New Year's Day, 1983, Sir Michael

Havers had been shooting with Mr Pincher and had provided him with information which had formed the basis of a sequel to *Their Trade is Treachery*.
Sir Robert said he knew nothing of that. When the sequel had appeared it was agreed that it had contained little new material.
Sir Robert was reluctant to use the designation of MI6. When a reference was made to Mr Arthur Martin, a former MI5 officer, moving to MI6, Sir Robert would say only that Mr Martin had gone "to another place".

Mr Theo Simos, QC, appearing for the British Government, said Sir Robert was being put in the position of being the first official to confirm the organization's existence.
Mr Turnbull remarked: "It is a neat hypocrisy that Britain will admit the existence of one of its own agencies which spies on its own people (MI5), but not to that which spies on other people."

The need for secrecy apparently baffled Mr Justice Powell, who said he had read books about British intelligence and had been under the impression that the Australian security services, with an internal and an external arm, had been based on "the role model in the Mother Country".

Leading article, page 21

Man in the news

This judge is more than meets the eye

Sydney — His Honour Mr Justice Philip Ernest Powell, who will be required to pass judgment on the British Government's application to suppress the Wright manuscript, has been heard to refer to himself during the proceedings as "just an old colonial" (Stephen Taylor writes).

He is clearly more than that, however. Aged 56, he was called to the Bar only a year after being admitted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales as a solicitor and has been a judge since he was 47. A former intelligence officer, he served with the Australian Army Intelligence Corps.

Mr Justice Powell's avuncular manner towards counsel for the British Government and Mr Wright is marked by his commentaries on the case that is going on.

After one sharp-witted exchange he remarked: "That's 15-11" while the sallies of Mr Malcolm Turnbull, the shrewd young solicitor appearing for Mr Wright, are occasionally mildly admonished. "That's yours for the day, Mr Turnbull."

The judge has been unvaryingly courteous towards Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, who has spent three tough days under cross-examination by Mr Turnbull.

But he has expressed dissatisfaction on the conduct of the case by the British side on a number of occasions. This week he said he was worried that Sir Robert had been put forward as the Crown's main witness when there were clearly areas, on matters of law, for



Mr Justice Powell, questioned aspects of British case example, which were outside his jurisdiction and on which he was incapable of answering questions.

Last week, discerning one more of a series of tactical adjustments by the British lawyers, he expressed anger for the only time so far in the proceedings, describing what he said was his "rising sense of frustration" at these "verbalistic wranglings".
From other remarks, including references to characters in the novels of John Le Carré, it is clear that Mr Justice Powell is well-read in the literature of the secret intelligence world, but his main recreation is gardening.

According to his entry in *Who's Who in Australia* he has two sons and two daughters and is a member of the Imperial Services Club.

Furore over Chess Federation poll

From Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Dubai

Mr Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines and Professor Lincoln Lucena of Brazil are contesting the election for the post of president of the World Chess Federation (Fide), which will take place here next Saturday.

Broadly speaking, Mr Campomanes, the incumbent, is supported by the Third World, and Professor Lucena numbers most of Eastern Europe, the US and world chess champion, Gary Kasparov (USSR), among his supporters.

Mr Campomanes has angered many during his four-year term by what is perceived as an autocratic style of leadership, which culminated in his arbitrary termination of the first Karpov-Kasparov world championship match on February 15, 1985, just as Kasparov had won two consecutive games.

Mr Lucena has promised reforms, including a more democratic Fide structure.

Mr Campomanes' greatest coup has been the staging of the 1986 Chess Olympiad and elections in Dubai, an event from which Israel had been excluded for the first time in the history of the championship, an action which prompted Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark to boycott the event.

Mr Ahmed Abdullhah Abu Hussain, General Secretary of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports in the United Arab Emirates said: "Dubai and the Olympic organizing committee con-

firmed at the opening of the Olympiad that they clearly supported Mr Campomanes for re-election as president of Fide."

To confirm their gratitude they have spent around £700,000 on international air tickets to ferry in potential Campomanes supporters. Officially these tickets are for "delegations not able to finance their air tickets costs to attend the Olympiad" but a furore erupted yesterday morning when the list of recipients of this generosity was published.

It includes Spain, Greece and Italy (prominent Campomanes supporters), but excludes Bermuda and Zimbabwe, believed to be on the opposite side. Sixty-seven of the 125 of the World Federation's nations have benefited and this pattern of bias was repeated throughout the list.

Mr Hussein said: "It is Mr Campomanes' right to exploit this wonderful idea and use it in his just election campaign."

Gary Kasparov, the world champion, has predictably hit the roof. He said: "Chess has been rocked by scandal which must now come to an end. Campomanes' autocratic style of leadership has harmed everyone. He has had four years to make his own chess world and the result is bad."

Yesterday afternoon Kasparov summoned many prominent grandmasters to the first meeting of his projected World Grandmaster League.



Miss Mercouri with a model of the site for a new £13 million museum to house the treasures of the Acropolis.

Museum planned for Elgin marbles

From A Correspondent Athens

Miss Melina Mercouri, Greece's Minister of Culture, yesterday announced an international competition to design a new archaeological museum at the base of the Acropolis, where she is "certain" the Elgin Marbles will be displayed one day.

The former actress, who has fought for the return of the Parthenon relics from the British Museum for the past five years, said the competition was to plan a £13 million museum to be built by 1996.

Artefacts from the fifth-century BC Parthenon and other Acropolis monuments, including four of the caryatid maidens on the Erechtheion, are now housed in a crowded basement museum on the south-east corner of the hill. Hundreds of other relics are in storage because of a lack of display space.

Miss Mercouri said the new museum "will assist our crusade to bring the Parthenon marbles home. Everyone will see that we have a fitting home for them. I am certain the marbles from the Parthenon will come back and be sheltered there."

A year ago Britain rejected an appeal by Athens to return more than a dozen marble figures and a section of the Parthenon frieze removed in the early 1800s by Thomas Bruce, the seventh Earl of Elgin and once British Ambassador to Ottoman Turkey.

Workers in dispute set fire to gold mine

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

Firemen were last night battling to control a gold mine fire 1½ miles underground which appears to have been deliberately started by black miners in dispute with the owner, Gold Fields, over a pay settlement.

It was detected in the Kloof mine last Monday and a second blaze broke out later. "The cause of the first fire, which was extinguished, was definitely sabotage and there is a strong possibility that the second was also started deliberately," Mr Keith Spencer, the mine manager, said.

The affected area has had to be sealed off before flooding it, a process which could take a week. About 20 per cent of the mine, which normally produces gold worth about R2 million (£625,000) a day, is out of production.

If arson is proved, it would be one of the few known cases of sabotage being used by miners as a weapon in a dispute with mine management.

● CANBERRA: Australia will stop issuing visitor and temporary entry visas within South Africa from today, the Immigration Minister, Mr Chris Hurford, said (Reuter reports).

Intending visitors will have to apply for visas outside the country although Australian offices in South Africa will continue to handle applications for permanent residence.

Why workaholics seldom get to the top.



Is he working his way to the top?
Or not on top of his work?

This is a true story.

One company, we know employed a man who worked very hard every day, long after everybody else had gone home and often at weekends as well.

His job wasn't particularly important or well paid. But everybody marvelled at how long and painstakingly he laboured.

At 9 o'clock one night, a few years before he was due to retire, he went to collect some more paper from the stationery store. On the way, he had a heart attack in the lift.

Nobody was there to tend him. They'd all gone home. So he died.

His bosses felt guilty. Had they been overworking him, they wondered.

So they gave someone else the job to do and watched carefully to see how he fared.

The new man found he could do the entire job in two days a week.

Workaholics, it seems, do not work for success or riches.

They don't work to achieve anything.

For them, work is an end in itself. If anything, they work to create more work.

True, you may say, but what has this to do with InterCity. (We assume you've spotted the logo at the bottom of this page.)

Next time you're on the motorway, look at the business folk in their cars.

What are they accomplishing?

Not a lot.

They are achieving nothing more than covering the miles to Liverpool, London, Birmingham or wherever. And they are turning it into hard work.

Look at their faces. Do they look as though they're enjoying it?

When they get to the other end, they will be tired. So they will have the comforting feeling that they have done a day's work and earned their money, before they even reach their meetings.

Now look at the people covering the same journey on InterCity.

These people are shirking.

They are reading magazines, doing crosswords, playing chess, thinking, eating meals, studying reports, formulating their strategy, snoozing, daydreaming. Heaven help us, some of them are drinking alcohol.

Most of all, they are having a nice time.

Is this any way for go-ahead executives to conduct themselves?

It certainly is.

They arrive at their meetings with fresher, clearer minds. They are probably more alert and certainly less tired. Quite simply, they're in a fitter state to do business.

What's more, they get to their meetings at up to 125 miles an hour instead of 70.

Sometimes the way to the top is to do less work.



Bangladeshi officers in the wings

Ershad treads warily to maintain army's role in civilian government

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

The influence that the Bangladeshi Army has over the Government, which is now civilian, is likely to find some institutional form. If not, the ambitious young officers who have become used to running the country in the past 4 1/2 years, may well begin plotting again.

Senior political figures indicated that he is likely soon to bring forward new warrants of precedence that will return the military chiefs into the front row on public occasions. More than that, he is expected to create a national security council which will give them some official position as advisers to the President.

confrontation with its own people - in which case he would have to resign and new elections could be called. In pursuit of this kind of aim the Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina Wazed, daughter of the assassinated founder of the country, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, proposes to keep up its pressure on the Government both in the streets and - since martial law has now been lifted - in Parliament too.



Mourners in Manila following a truck bearing the coffins of Mr Olalia, the murdered left-wing labour leader, and his driver.

Philippine rebels reject deadline for ceasefire

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Thousands of mourners yesterday joined the funeral procession for Mr Rolando Olalia, the labour leader whose murder, blamed by supporters on military agents, has halted peace talks to end the 17-year communist insurgency.

Mr Satur Ocampo and Mr Antonio Zamel, the communist negotiators, joined the biggest rally since the February People's Power revolt swept President Aquino to power, and said that her deadline for a ceasefire by the end of the month was unacceptable.

Pope denounces state aid for birth control

Singapore (Reuter) - The Pope attacked government birth-control programmes, such as those promoted here until recently, during his five-hour stopover yesterday in this wealthy Asian island-state.

has said it is looking at incentives for women to have up to four children. About 60,000 people, sheltering under a sea of multi-coloured umbrellas, braved torrential monsoon rain and lightning to attend the Mass.

Herzog in surprise visit to Sri Lanka

Colombo (Reuter) - President Herzog of Israel met President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka yesterday during a surprise six-hour visit to Sri Lanka at the end of his tour of Asia and the Pacific.

Advertisement for Abbey National Five Star Account. Features a large graphic of a five-pointed star and the headline 'Look what's in the stars for you'. Text includes: 'Interest rising to 8.50% net-with instant access.', '£500 or more in Abbey National's Five Star Account earns a high rate of interest which rises the more you invest - up to a top rate of 8.50%.', '24 HOUR ABBEYLINK SERVICE.', and 'A rising rate of interest plus instant access - it's in our Five Stars for you at your local Abbey National branch.'

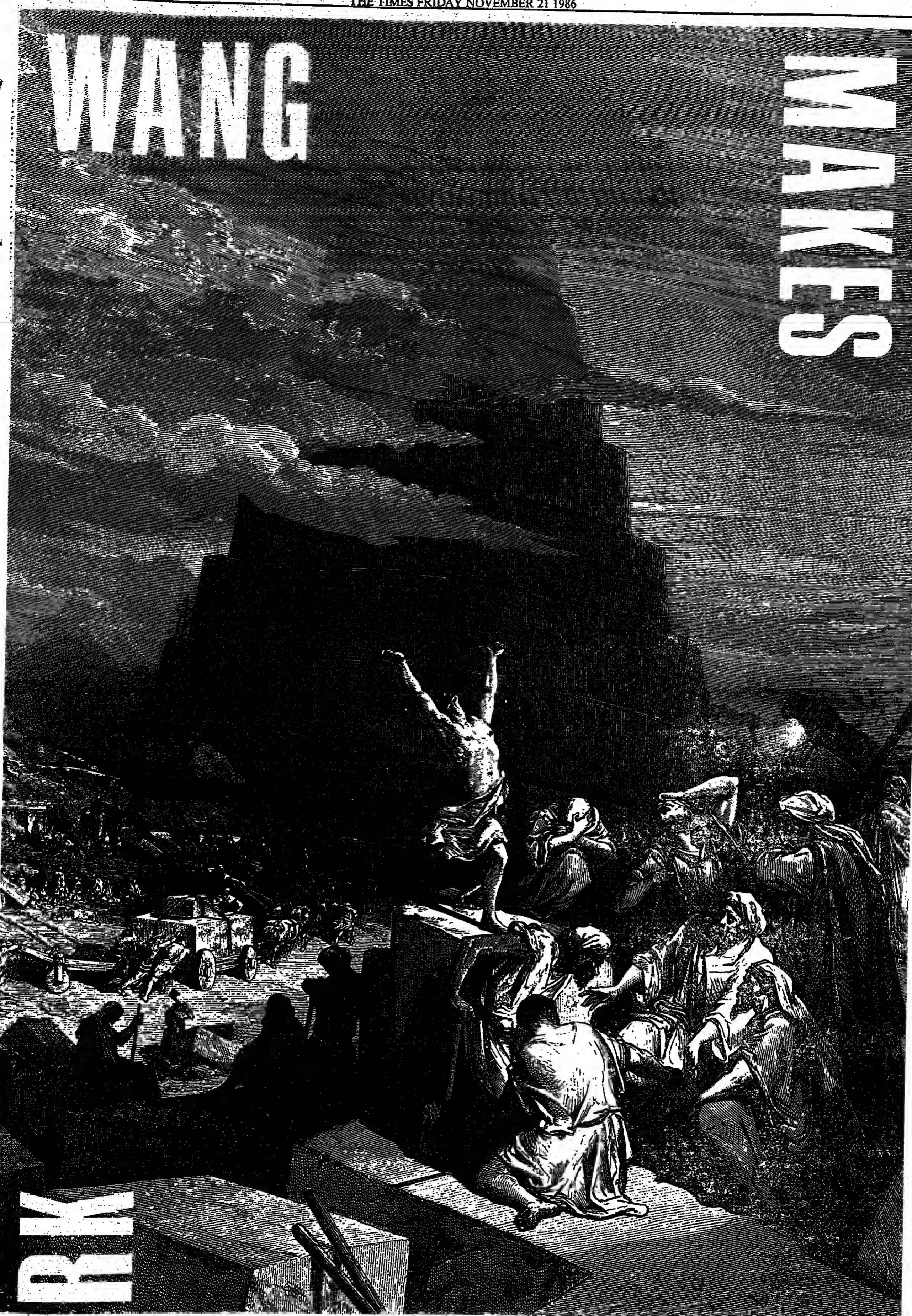
Advertisement for Austrian election. Section header: 'Socialists ready to relinquish office'. Text: 'In his final press conference before Sunday's general election, the Austrian Chancellor, Dr Franz Vranitzky, expressed quiet confidence in his Socialist Party's ability to win a majority.' Includes a small portrait of Dr Vranitzky.

Advertisement for 'THE BIG PRE-CHRISTMAS FUR LIQUIDATION SALE'. Text: 'A fabulous selection of Hundreds of superb quality furs YOUR CHANCE TO BUY THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER - NOW'. Includes a list of fur items and prices.

Handwritten Arabic text: 'صكرا عن الاموال'

WANG

MAKES



WORK

And they said, Go to, let us build a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven:

And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language... and now nothing will be restrained from them: which they have imagined to do. Let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another.

GENESIS 11:1-9

So He gave us, amongst other things, computer systems.

Just how much potential is wasted by companies' computers not working together is something no computer in the world can quantify.

There is, however, a down-to-earth solution to this computerized confusion.


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alongside almost any combination of hardware, gets all your computers teamed up and working together to their full. So there's nothing to stop your company doing the same.

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THE ARTS

Turning doubles into triples Celebrations of freedom won by outrage

Shortly before his death in Paris in 1966 André Breton, the animator of the Surrealist movement, was visited on his sick-bed by his old friend, the Spanish film director Luis Buñuel. Later that same day, Buñuel told me that Breton's parting words had been "Dear friend, no one is scandalized any more". Of the three Spanish artists being presented by the BBC tonight, and on the next two Fridays, only Dali persisted in presuming that society could be scandalized by the artist.

Yet all three, in one way or another, were children of scandal. Buñuel, the Jesuit schoolboy, flashed his way on to the world's screens, cutting eyeballs with razors and hurling, as Henry Miller said of him, dynamic sticks. He was repaid with spotlights thrown by fascist brigades at showings of his early films. Lorca's scandal was of a quieter kind: a woman dressed in black gives fervent thanks that her daughter died a virgin.

TELEVISION

This extraordinary edition was in the pipeline some weeks before the recent revelations about President Reagan's born-again friendliness to the ayatollahs, and its impressive evidence of veal duplicity was well timed to cause maximum embarrassment to more than one government. Ten conspirators, including an Israeli war hero and Adnan Kashoggi's lawyer, are now under indictment for attempting to supply Iran with old American hardware, and the central figure in the "siding" operation that netted them has died.

Confronted with the U.S. Customs' foggy video, the genial merchants tried in the postures of schoolboy innocence. But sir, the prefects said we could smoke during chapel. The awkward child is that they may be telling the truth.

Forty Minutes (BBC2) weighed in with a brisk, often funny rummage through The Englishwoman's Wardrobe - a colour-snap idea which the reporter Angela Huth expanded into a memorable piece of television. "Hopefully one doesn't look ridiculous" hoped Lady Rochester, looking like a boiled sweet done up with ribbons. "If we take her to Watford, it's got to be dark" gloomed the father of an obese teenage rebel who might perhaps find work with Fellini. "You're throwing my new wellies" wailed a "sensibly" dressed countrywoman at a garden fête with a contest for hurling the boots in question. "I only bought them last week."

A rather frightening film producer was shown pumping iron before stepping into a big black number that showed off her rear cleavage, while the editing of Mrs Thatcher's eager contribution made it look as if she might be trying to sell something. On the same channel, the sainted Phil Silvers returned for a new season of peerless repeats. If Bilkin were still in harness today, he would doubtless be flogging spare Skyhawks to Iran.

Martin Cropper

Down an alleyway in Shore-ditch are flat-facaded warehouses. The air resounds with cockney shouts as consignments of clothing fabric are wheeled out; spike-haired Eliza Doolittles hum pop tunes as they pass by on their bicycles. Number 44 looks like the home of just another craftsman, what with the row of baskets hanging in the first-floor window and the word "Cooper" at the door.

But the Cooper in question is a craftsman of a different kind. He is the writer Century Hutchinson is hailing as "a major new British novelist" for his book Ruth, just published. The tall man who opens the door has the most noncommittal of costumes - black jersey, blue jeans - and leads the way up a Jacob's ladder of a staircase, two flights sheer up, to a home fit for an evangelist, furnished in towering 19th-century Gothic revival.

But why the baskets that give the lie to the word Cooper? "Oh they belong to my downstairs tenant Mrs

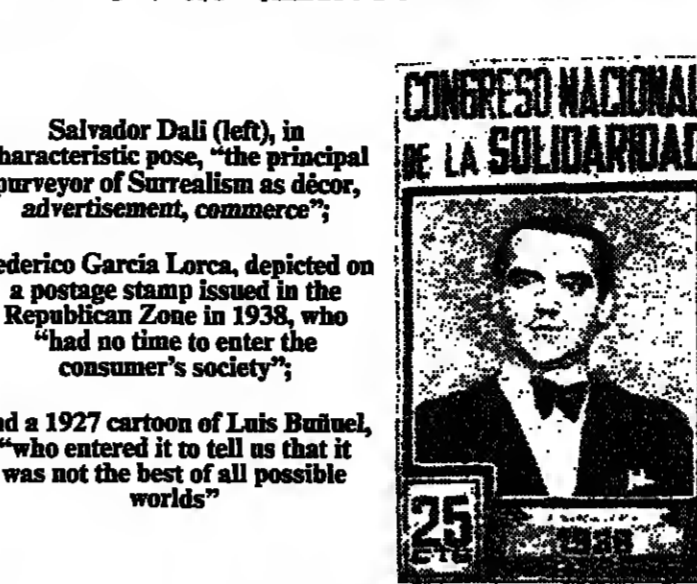


history, yet we are also its victims. The wonderful images of Los Olvidados - the dreaming slum-children of Mexico, the corruption of poverty - and The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie - the nightmares of French cuisine, the rich as the needy - of Robinson Crusoe - a lonely man on an island, having to decide whether his native companion is to be a slave or a friend - and The Exterminating Angel - the terrible fear, both ageless and all too contemporary, of being either imprisoned or abandoned outside - form an unrivaled corpus of critical commentary in the cinema. They are also, I believe, one of the

greatest 20th-century statements about the breadth and limit of freedom attainable through the arts. Surrealism flooded the 20th century with images we had forgotten, dreamt about, or discovered thanks to a new material world of moon and comfort. Dali, whose writings on critical paranoia and paintings of melting watches and sub-lunar landscapes became part of the aesthetic canon of the times, was the principal purveyor of Surrealism as décor, advertisement, commerce,

and a 1927 cartoon of Luis Buñuel, "who entered it to tell us that it was not the best of all possible worlds"

Tonight Arena (BBC2) commences a series of programmes on three of the great Spanish artists of the century, Buñuel, Dali and Lorca. Carlos Fuentes, leading Hispanic writer and currently visiting professor at Cambridge University, assesses the influence of these "children of scandal"



Salvador Dali (left), in characteristic pose, "the principal purveyor of Surrealism as décor, advertisement, commerce"; Federico García Lorca, depicted on a postage stamp issued in the Republican Zone in 1938, who "had no time to enter the consumer's society"; and a 1927 cartoon of Luis Buñuel, "who entered it to tell us that it was not the best of all possible worlds"

commercial, industrial design, film editing techniques and Fifth Avenue displays. Lorca had no time to enter the consumer's society. His death occurred against the native grey wall in rural Andalusia. Buñuel entered it to tell us that it was not the best of all possible worlds.

Dali, a perverse Pangloss, promoted it and his place in it, reaping its rewards, fashioning a universe of celebrity and entertainment which has now become the shining shadow of our own deaths. Dali's homage to scandal was to become all that he had decried as a young Surrealist:



Catholic, royalist, a marquis, decorated with sundry monarchical orders. Perhaps he was the most courageous of all: he courted the devil. These three men were early friends and companions. One died young, the others lived into their eighties. They are alive, as artists, to a world-wide audience. Yet their originality, along with their youthful friendship, is deeply rooted in Spain. In Spain all three of them found the images, the latent universal meanings that the modern world had forgotten. They drew from the picaresque novel, Cervantes and Velázquez, the equally scandalous Quevedo and the mystic St Teresa and, of course, from both the popular light and the black bitterness of Goya. No illusions here, but a lot of hope: this was their paradox. Or as another, all-too-central-European eccentric, Franz Kafka, once put it, "there shall be much hope, but not for us".

Dali, Buñuel and Lorca also announced the loss of centrality of traditional European culture. It is not surprising that Spain, for a long time the *finis terra* of Europe, should have given the world these three central eccentrics. Dali, Buñuel and Lorca tell us that all cultures, having become eccentric, have now also become central.

Purely on the strength of his first book, Ruth, which has only just been published, Jeremy Cooper (right) is already being hailed as "a major British novelist": interview by Sarah Jane Checkland

Craftsman with a difference

Charles Grahame, purveyor of lingerie and late day wear, whatever that is, to the Queen Mother and Princess Diana, I hate baskets, and plan to ban such things in the window when the next lease comes up." Jeremy Cooper's intransigence in matters of taste is in fact justified, as he successfully completed no fewer than three antique-related careers before turning novelist, aged 37, in 1983. Until 1977 he was a director of Sotheby's and tipped to succeed the chairman, Peter Wilson; he was hailed as the new Arthur Negus on the Antiques Roadshow. He has written five books on antiques and how the trade operates.

But Cooper has now plotted to upstage both Mrs Grahame's aesthetic sense and her feminine sensibilities. Less the agent about than the monk in retreat, he spent one intensive year, ten hours a day, seven days a week, writing the life-story of a suicidal young woman. Cooper's heroine is a plain woman, pushing 30, a dropout among Yuppies, living in virtual solitude with her widowed mother. Her obsessions and fantasies are her main companions, focusing as they do on her dead father, God and the boyfriend who marries another. Cooper has based his book around a girl, now dead, he once knew: Jane Urquhart, who was also the artist responsible for the haunting dust-jacket picture of two Edwardian dolls trapped in a crumbling cardboard box.



The fact that the story is in part reportage makes his achievement no less remarkable, as in a skilfully filtering stream of consciousness he has succeeded in co-ordinating a sense of obsessive repetition while avoiding monotony. He also leaves open the ultimate question - whether the heroine is physically or mentally ill, or neither. She constantly debates her symptoms with herself but, as her doctor says in Chapter 2, "there is nothing inherently wrong with you". Cooper is gratified at the number of people who read the manuscript and say "You must know...". It means that, with Ruth, he has hit a nerve.

And so, when Ruth's doctor says "You've got to find your place in the story before you can hope to make sense of the plot", it could well double for the author's predicament too.

Writing did not come easily. Cooper cannot spell, and describes his literary skills as "marginal". Sometimes he only writes two or three hundred words a day. But his personal struggle does have its own dividends. The text never slackens into the glib delivery of the virtuoso; like Ruth herself, he sees things visually.

When the task of writing was over, another, that of finding a publisher, began. Faber kept the manuscript for eight months only to return it with a note asking for a rewrite. He gained little consolation from friends who expressed confidence that he would eventually succeed, as "they assumed I had written a Jeffrey Archer-style novel, something with that sort of appeal". Fortune changed, however, when the manuscript was read by Kate Mosse,

the 24-year-old editor at Century Hutchinson and radical feminist. Convinced of its merits, she passed it on to a reader who announced that the only other male author to have entered so successfully an ill woman's mind was Patrick White.

Soon she was encouraging him through the fine tuning of Ruth. There were no complaints about most scenes, even those of a feminine, sexual nature. Kate Mosse did, however, raise a practical query as to the fate of Ruth's knickers in her solitary bacchanalian revelry in the gardeo. Cooper had caused Ruth to cast them off in a moment of abandonment, and walk on down the path. "But you can't just write that", explained the editor, "every-one will want to know where they landed". Together, and without the assistance of Mrs Grahame, lingerie expert, Cooper and his editor decided their fate.

Ruth is published by Century Hutchinson at £9.95.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Grid of entertainment listings including Concerts, Opera & Ballet, Theatres, and Art Galleries.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or note.

THE ARTS

Charming away life's tumult



Irrepressibly beautiful: Catherine Mouchet's exquisite playing in the title-role of Thérèse

CINEMA
Thérèse (PG)
Cannons Swiss Centre,
Baker Street

Greed
London Film Festival
(Queen Elizabeth Hall)

Angelos (18)
Cannons Piccadilly, Swiss
Centre

Psycho III (18)
Cannon Haymarket

There is a clue to the attraction of Alain Cavalier's *Thérèse* in the director's statement that he wanted "to get away from the mass of images and sound with which I am bombarded every day". The bare grey backgrounds, the uncluttered sets, the worn but muted browns and sepia and pale flesh colours of the photography, the camera that lingers patiently to observe a face or a small private movement - everything conveys an immediate sense of that soothing calm which every one of us imagines as the reward of a monastic retreat.

The film is a free interpretation of the life and death of St Thérèse of Lisieux, a young Carmelite nun who died of tuberculosis at the age of 24 in 1897, and was canonized in 1925. Her diary, *The Story of a Soul*, was published after her death and was evidently the major inspiration for Cavalier's portrait of Thérèse as a devout, cheerful, simple and gently witty girl. The wifeliness first appears when she disobeys all the rules to address the Pope directly, appealing to him to overrule the Carmelites who refuse to take her into the order at the tender age of 15. Persistence triumphs.

The charm and the pathos of Thérèse and her spiritual sisters is that they are so wholly and fallibly human. Brides of Christ they may be, but they are as vulnerable to the weaknesses of vanity, prejudice, meanness, envy, desire and silliness as anyone else. Their unselfconscious, unguarded emotions can be disquieting. Thérèse's love-affair with Christ sometimes seems dangerously like an adolescent's crush; and there is a disturbing moment when the frustrated maternal instincts of these secluded women are suddenly released with violence as they play with a life-sized crib doll as if it were a real sucking child.

The first impression of the work (it was originally shown at the Cannes Festival, where it received the Jury Prize) is of a benign, devout affection for the part of Cavalier. At second viewing his attitude - with its stress on the fetishism and merciless self-mortification - seems much more

ambiguous. His feeling for Thérèse herself, however, is unqualified. The sweet, obsessive, lively, incorruptibly good child is exquisitely played by a first-time film actress, Catherine Mouchet. Her irrepressible, beatific smile convinces the spectator, like those around her in the film, that she is really possessed by pure spiritual joy and goodwill that cannot be dimmed even by the extremities of mortal disease.

In his 1924 masterpiece *Greed*, Erich von Stroheim set out to adapt Frank Norris's sprawling realist novel *McTeague* page by page, emulating the stark realism of the original. In this way he ended up with a film of over ten hours, which he then struggled to cut down to five. When that version proved unacceptable to the company, Metro-Goldwyn, he handed it over to a friend, the Irish-born director Rex Ingram, who cut it by a further third. At this point the company took the film out of his hands and reduced it to 12 reels (about 150 minutes), patching the gaps in the story with explanatory titles.

It is this version which can be seen tomorrow and on Sunday at the 1986 "Thames Silents" presentation at the London Film Festival. The longer versions have vanished, though the search for them continues to lure film scholars like a grail. A sighting of "The Stroheim Version" is rumoured every few years, rather like the Loch Ness Monster, but so far none of the reports has been substantiated.

Even in its mutilated form (the actual print quality is excellent) *Greed* remains remarkable, a vindication of the status of the silent film as an autonomous art. Stroheim's realism, not just in the *mise-en-scène* but in the psychology of his characters, was too much for many of his contemporaries, accustomed to soothing sentiment and happy ends. A trade reviewer of the time called it "the filthiest, vilest, most putrid picture in the history of the motion picture business".

The film is set in the depressed German immigrant quarter of San Francisco. It is a case-history of the degeneration of a married couple, McTeague, who practises without qualifications as a dentist, and his German wife Trina, whose sexual rigidity eventually finds a release in psychotic miseries. After the mad-dog McTeague murders Trina and makes off with her hoard, he is trailed to Death Valley by a former rival for her affection and fortune. There the film ends with a famous sequence of the two men, handcuffed together, one dead and the other dying of thirst, the useless gold spilt on the sand beside them.

Stroheim insisted on shooting everything on real locations: the streets and bars of Twenties San Francisco, the sewer on the city outskirts where the lovers have their first meeting, and Death Valley, at 140 degrees in the shade - but there was no shade. A cook died from the heat during the shooting, yet Stroheim got what he wanted: the scene of the killing sun is still painful in these 60-year-old images.

Music was an integral element of the wordless cinema - it was never truly silent - and Carl Davis's orchestral score, first heard at the Edinburgh Festival, intelligently complements the images and heightens the powerful emotional effect. *Angelos* is a curious film to come from Greece, where not so long ago they banned Ron Peck's innocent *Nighthawks*. It tells the tale of a handsome, hapless lad from a

wretched home, who moves into a love-nest with a young marine. In no time at all his friend forces him to earn their keep, working as a transvestite prostitute. Predictably it all ends in bloody tragedy.

This is a startling view of the macho Greek, suggesting that even married men like a little homosexuality on the side, as long as, for appearance's sake, it comes in skirts. The writer-director George Katakouzinos is undoubtedly in earnest, wanting to strike a blow for a more liberated view of sexuality; the best scene in fact is the opening, showing a police swoop on homosexuals in a public park. Unfortunately he is not well served by his actor, Michael Maniatis, who has only a single expression, and is no more alluring in drag than Old Mother Riley. *Angelos* won awards for best film, best actor and best script at the Greek Film Festival in Thessalonika in 1984. It must have been a bad year.

There is more transvestism in *Psycho III*. To make one sequel to Hitchcock's *Psycho* seemed a poor idea, but it earned a lot of money at the box-office. A second sequel is certainly a worse idea. There is a limit to the variations that can be played upon Norman Bates, his mummified mother and their old dark house - though at the close of this episode the ageing Norman (still played by Anthony Perkins, who also directs the film) gives us the wink that he will be back yet again.

There are several nasty murders, and to live it up for the *cognoscenti* a couple of scenes done as Hitchcock pastiche. Perkins more deliberately plays Norman for sympathy and with a degree of humour. It does not alter the fact that it is very tired stuff.

David Robinson

CONCERTS

RPO/Dorati
Festival Hall/
Radio 3

Whoever chooses the repertoire for the annual Royal Concert, in aid of the Musicians Benevolent Fund, has a wry sense of irony. Wednesday night's revels included Beethoven's arrangement of miscellaneous Handel, *The Gods go a-begging*: a ballet suite cobbled together for Diaghilev when the impresario was himself badly in need of funds. Its title hints, however superficially, at a paradox which is as noticeable today as in Sir Thomas's time. In one sense we do indeed regard skilled musicians, and skilled artists of every sort, as "gods". They can offer the clearest perceptions of the deepest realities. Yet we make them carry round the begging-bowl to survive.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra somehow failed to get excited about its former supreme's exhortations, and in truth the scoring has its crass moments. But there was a wistful quality about the minut and gavotte that almost made one renounce one's purist inclinations.

Richard Morrison

Contemporary Music Network

Bloomsbury Theatre

An evening of music by the 60-year-old Hungarian composer György Kurtág - especially when, thanks to the Contemporary Music Network, it is to be toured to five different corners of England - has to be a good thing. But this was not the way to do it. Despite the missionary zeal of the London Sinfonietta, despite festival appearances at Bath and Cheltenham, we still hear too little of this most disciplined and imaginative miniaturist. But, given the nature of his music for voice - its aphorism, its splintering fragments - it does little for the cause to present six of his works in succession without the context of mixed company which they so badly need as a foil.

The *Attila József Fragments*, for instance (first performed in 1982), are highly expressive and distinctive unaccompanied images of the artist's working mind, and require and repay enormous concentration. For all Adrienne Csengery's athletic movement between animated speech-song and still, lyrical reflection, this was no easy task after the Op 22 Seven Songs, the *Splinters* for cimbalom (Webern with paprika), the Op 12 *Remembrance Note* and eight tiny, prismatic Duos for violin (Nona Liddell) and cimbalom (Christopher Bradley).

As the evening wore on, the cavernous space of the Bloomsbury Theatre seemed increasingly to diffuse and attenuate engagement with what should be intense and intensely projected music. The weightier inventive and instrumental substance of the Op 19 *Scenes from a Novel* (all three performers were joined here by Robin McGee's double-bass) provided welcome ballast. Dedicated to Ms Csengery and sung in Russian, these 15 songs to poems by Rimma Dalos find the voice at its most expansively rhapsodic: dreams of longing alternate with haiku-brief physical encounters as bows judder and cimbalom taps out a tense Morse code of emotion.

Hilary Finch

THEATRE

Killing Jessica Savoy

According to its director, Bryan Forbes, this adapted television thriller by Richard Levinson and William Link is "as good as *The Mousetrap*". I took this as a reference to Agatha Christie's long runner; but, after seeing the show, it seems he meant the whodunit that Hamlet laid on for the King of Denmark (and which closed on the night).

Set on the stage of a Broadway theatre, *Killing Jessica* consists of a performance arranged by a playwright to entrap the murderer of his actress fiancée. By the end of the evening, it emerges that we have been witnessing a play within a play. If we add the Savoy audience (London's closest approximation to the Broadway clientele), that supplies yet another theatrical dimension.

The piece is most carefully addressed to the taste of 44th Street theatre buffs: people with a smattering of backstage information, who know the names of leading producers and the ghostly ritual of first-night reviews, and who judge productions on the *Variety* criterion of whether they are repaying their investment.

All this is reflected by Mr Forbes's company, who give a faithful performance of how theatre people are supposed to behave. Nobody, least of all the suave playwright, comes out with any rubbish about art. The talk is of hits, flops and backers; and of rented celebrities who stampee for the exit when the bad notices arrive, turning their carriages into pumpkins. And, of course, of professional status. The killer turns out not to have been motivated by greed or lust, only by thwarted ambition. The crime is an act of revenge against those who get their names up in lights by somebody who is never going to make it. On its own arid ground, the play is entirely logical.

Having so far evaded the thankless task of outlining a plot with both hands tied behind my back, I can disclose that it reunites the members of the company a year after the collapse of Alex's play on the eve of his wedding to the leading lady. He is of the opinion that, far from falling from the window of her apartment, she was pushed; and, under the pretext of having a new play in the pipeline, he invites the company to a rehearsed reading. The authors have an explanation for that, and for every other apparent implausibility. It is a well-constructed piece, not particularly thrilling, but it holds the attention.

Its quality is exactly in key with the style of Patrick Macnee, who brings his Americanized view of the English gentleman to bear on the playwright sleuth. Otherwise, there are reliable support performances from Liz Robertson, Jennie Linden and David Langton.

Irving Wardle

New productions of Verdi's *La Traviata* and the Ravel double bill of *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* and *L'Heure espagnole* are included in next year's Glyndebourne Festival, which runs from May 24 to August 22. Sir Peter Hall directs *Traviata* - being given

for the first time at Glyndebourne - and Bernard Haitink conducts; and the Ravel works are conducted by Simon Rattle, directed by Frank Corsaro and designed by Maurice Sendak. Revivals of *Carmen*, *Così fan tutte*, *Capriccio* and *Porgy and Bess* complete the repertoire.

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Sadler's Wells
Royal Ballet
SAINSBURY'S
30 DECEMBER 1986
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SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE

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A murky, dirty, secret war



The terrorist killing of Renault chief Georges Besse (left) focuses attention on France's security. Philip Jacobson finds evidence that the European secret services are fighting each other as well as the external enemy

In April this year, Frédéric Oriach walked out of a French jail after completing a five-year sentence for belonging to "an association of criminals". The moment the prison gates closed behind him, Oriach came under surveillance by agents of the Direction de la Sécurité du Territoire, France's domestic intelligence service. For the next six months, DST shadows were never far away from the young man they believed to be a leader of the Action Directe terrorist group.

To their surprise, Oriach made no attempt to go underground. Instead, his trail led in July to Damascus, where Oriach and several others suspected of belonging to Action Directe were whisked away by the Syrian secret service and installed in an hotel where they rarely left their rooms. Some time in August, they all made their way separately back to France by different routes, all of which involved passing through countries behind the Iron Curtain.

In September, soon after a series of bombs had ripped through the streets of Paris, five close friends of Oriach were arrested in the Jardin du Luxembourg for being "liable to bring aid and assistance to terrorists". There was speculation that Oriach himself had suddenly dropped out of sight, but there he was, preparing to deny any connection with the bombings to journalists summoned for an open-air press conference. Before he could speak, however, several tough-looking characters in plain clothes descended on him: protesting loudly, he was dragged off under arrest. "I'm just being used as a scapegoat because the police are incapable of doing their job", he managed to shout to the pursuing press corps.

Twenty-four hours later, it was announced that Oriach had been released without being charged. The DST resumed its expensive and time-consuming surveillance, apparently without discovering anything that might have alerted the authorities to this week's carefully-planned ambush and assassination of the Renault chairman, M. Georges Besse, by an Action Directe hit team consisting, it is alleged, of two women.

Tough questions are bound to be asked about the effectiveness of France's anti-terrorist services. Particular attention will focus on the DST's relationship with the

Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure, responsible for intelligence operations outside France. As is the case in other Western nations, Britain very much included, rivalry between the two services has often bordered on what one insider calls "undeclared warfare".

Two years ago, a report by the French Senate concluded that a certain "incompatibilité" which had developed over the years was seriously damaging operational efficiency. "When the DST wants to know something about terrorists abroad, it prefers to deal with certain foreign services than with its colleagues in the DGSE." The long tradition of political interference in the French intelligence community, of government ministers backing one faction against the other for their own ends, only exacerbated the problem. So acute had the jealousy and distrust become by the early 1980s that cynics claimed "la guerre des polices" was taking precedence over the war against terrorism.

Two anti-terrorist specialists in West Germany, veterans of a long campaign to break the Red Army Faction and committed to passing to French intelligence information from the vast data banks accumulated at Federal police headquarters in Wiesbaden, dealings with Paris could be extremely trying. "They often seemed more concerned about keeping our information away from the competition", one official at Wiesbaden complains. "The DST would insist that they were the only real experts on terrorism, next day the other service was saying exactly the same thing."

Surrounded by whirring supercomputers in their pristine, white-walled offices, summoning up a suspect's dental records at the touch of a few keys, the Germans frequently wondered whether their material was being deployed to much effect. "I used to imagine each side trying to rip the stuff off the telex hotline before the other guys saw it."

Part of the problem, French sources concede, was that their security services got away to a late start in countering terrorism at home. Until the mid-1970s, both of the principal intelligence agencies were more accustomed to dealing with straightforward espionage plus "normal" criminal activities



Find them: the wanted posters went up around France yesterday, offering a million francs reward for the killers of Georges Besse. Two members of Action Directe, Nathalie Mégnin, aged 29, and Joëlle Aubron, 27, are sought by French police and secret services

and the periodic bit of dirty work for their political masters (the DST became renowned for tapping Parisians' phones from an anonymous block near Les Invalides).

Their first encounters with the sophisticated and ruthless new breed of international terrorist beginning to plague western Europe came as a shock. When an informer provided an address in Paris for the notorious Carlos, alias "The Jackal", three DST officers were diverted there en route to a farewell party for a colleague to which they were not taking their guns. Carlos instantly killed two of them and their informer and seriously wounded the other. "We were a little naive in those days", says a former DST man. "We had to learn certain things the hard way."

Today, most qualified observers agree that both the DST and DGSE have improved significantly. For a start, a lot of money is going into the crucially important high-techology end of counter-terrorism. The DST's legendary card index system, which is where every hotel registration form in the country would end up, is now computerized. Over at the disused barracks where the DGSE is housed in Paris (known in the trade as "La Piscine" because of a nearby municipal

swimming pool), there is now a brisk electronic trade in intelligence with other Western services as the realisation spreads that "Euro-terrorism" and marauding killers from the Middle East have arrived in France in earnest. At the same time, the "action" arm of the DGSE, to use the euphemism for the rougher end of its duties, is being strengthened.

Most important of all, prodded sharply by the incoming Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, and his tough Minister of the Interior, M. Charles Pasqua, the capable professionals now running both services accept, albeit without general rejoicing, that the bad old days of cutting each other up whenever possible must end. There are persistent reports that M. Chirac wants to have on hand a combined force that can take the "dirty war" to terrorist haunts outside France's borders, above all to the source of so much innocent suffering, the Middle East.

Not all French experts on terrorism are yet convinced that a new era has begun. Two years after the French Senate investigation had warned that the gathering of "operational information" was extremely inadequate, they see little progress in the extraordinarily difficult but vital task of infiltrating the networks linking Action

Directe with other terrorist organizations like the obscure but deadly Lebanese faction believed to have been behind most of the Paris bombings (as the Senate noted, only a handful of French intelligence agents spoke good Arabic compare Israel, where they are common in security circles). "Information must precede action", argues the old hand M. Alexandre de Marenches, formerly chief of France's secret services. "I'm not yet persuaded that we have the means today of getting at the right information."

Judging by some tart observations in a recent interview, M. Chirac is no more an admirer of the present services. "They've always been infiltrated," he told the *Washington Times*. "I don't really believe in their usefulness in peacetime."

For leaders of commerce and industry in France, the killing of Georges Besse has brought home the belated realisation that they are now in the frontline of the war with terrorism. Take M. Jacques Malgouyrou, once head of IBM in Europe, now director-general of the Industry Ministry. Recently he had the alarming experience of seeing his own name on a list of "symbolic" targets prepared by

Action Directe and the West German terrorists from whom it has learned much of its trade.

Later on the night that M. Besse — who had always refused a bodyguard — was shot, M. Maison Rouge arrived to address a gathering of businessmen with an escort of fully two dozen well-armed police bodyguards. "When I saw how he was obliged to protect himself, I realised how vulnerable I was myself", says one of those present at that meeting. The prospect of spending his days in the company of "Les Gorilles" did not appeal, but he expected the multinational company he represents to insist on it.

As Aberdeon University's Professor Paul Wilkins pointed out soon after Besse was killed, there are over more than 200 terrorist attacks on prominent businessmen every year, double the number at the beginning of the 1980s. Another expert in France estimates that at least 25 of the country's top executives are, like the late M. Besse, sufficiently well known to represent choice targets.

"Action Directe said in documents published after earlier attacks that it was fighting capitalism", said Serge de Klenikoff of the French Association of Risk Analysts. "And those people always do what they say."

Who deals wins?

Insider scandals may be growing faster than the City's power to deal with them

The insider dealing cloud which swept over Wall Street in the summer is casting its shadow over the City of London, with two cases referred to the Stock Exchange in the past two weeks. But City gents are worried that the cumbersome British system is not up to the task of meeting out justice — out of nearly 100 cases referred to the Department of Trade and Industry since insider trading became illegal six years ago, only three have led to successful prosecutions.

Last June Dennis Levine, a 33-year-old New York investment banker, pleaded guilty to insider trading in stocks and shares. Once the Securities and Exchange Commission had caught Levine it did a secret deal with Ivan

'An awful lot of people are sitting on their backsides'

Bosky, a member of his ring. Bosky agreed to tape conversations with other suspected insider dealers to get the proof the SEC needed in return for a lighter sentence.

Two weeks ago in London, Geoffrey Collier abruptly left his position as a director of Morgan Grenfell Securities, one of the most promising securities companies in the City. He owned a 25-bedroom mansion in Kent, drove a Porsche and earned somewhere in the region of £250,000. Ironically, he lost his job over a deal that would have made him a profit of a mere £10,000.

Morgan Grenfell announced Collier's resignation to the world on the day he was forced to resign. He is believed to have had an accomplice, but the chances of uncovering a ring if one exists must now be very small.

The City is more interested, in seeing how the Collier inquiry is conducted than in its actual result — Department of Trade and Industry inquiries have a tendency to drag on for years.

"An awful lot of people are sitting on their backsides", said Martin Harry of Phillips, and Drew. "If the DTI and the DPP can't get prosecutions, they should let the City authorities like the Stock Exchange what they need in order to nail people successfully. So far, something has gone wrong somewhere."

Richard Thomson

THE TIMES

SATURDAY

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Towering inferno: the end of the Crystal Palace

Breaking glass

Six o'clock one dark and windy November night, the last editions of the evening papers had printed and BBC radio news had a scoop — the Crystal Palace, high on a hill above South London, was ablaze from end to end. The sound engineer that night remembers the first live outside broadcast 50 years ago

If the shoe fits... Bespoke styles for men

Just in from France... Le nouveau Beaujolais

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Putting danger to the test

Above an airbase in Wiltshire, the best pilots in the world are learning how to be even better...

One wing of the Hawker jet fighter canted downwards, and in a moment the aircraft was tumbling towards the earth, trapped in an aerodynamic pattern from which many aircraft have failed to escape. The pilot continued his calm radio commentary, describing the plane's gyrations and the angle of its nose to the horizon.

The plane twisted on to its back, the most disorienting position for the pilot as the gravity forced blood into his head. At intervals a beeper sounded and a recorded lady with a cut-glass voice announced: "20,000 feet — recover now — 10,000 feet — if not recovered, eject."

Then the plane darted out of the spin, as easily as a swallow. The calm voice of the pilot continued with his radio report.

A controlled spin is a dangerous enough technique in any aeroplane, but especially so in a swept-wing fighter. The school for test pilots at Boscombe Down, Wiltshire — which is the subject of a BBC television series starting next month — is the only one in the world where such planes are regularly put through the routine.

The Royal Air Force has lost 29 aircraft through spinning accidents in recent years, and so teaches its pilots not to get into the predicament in the first place. But test pilots still have to explore the capacity of each new design or adaptation to establish where the danger point lies — and they have to know how to recover if they go over the edge.

The word "danger" is frowned on at the school because it implies a loss of control. "We had to give the BBC some romantic imagery, but when we engage in a high-risk exercise we take the precautions necessary to make the risk acceptable," says Wing Commander John Bolton, head of the school.

In spite of all precautions, though, "high risk" can hit the ground just as hard as "dangerous". The school has lost three planes and one pilot in recent years. Two Tornados were lost, one with an engine fire and the other crashing after striking a flock of birds. The student who died was practising landing

oo one engine in an Andover, a relatively sedate plane.

The school aims to give students experience of flying 12 different types of aircraft, ranging from trainers to fully fledged Lightning combat aircraft. Britain needs only half-a-dozen military and civil test pilots a year and the 10-month courses would be almost impossible to organize for such small numbers, so Boscombe Down, which was founded in 1943 as the first formal test pilots' school in the world, opens a number of places to pilots from other countries, bringing the total to about 15. This year's foreign students come from the USA, Germany, France,

Italy, Canada, Australia, Holland, Norway, and Thailand.

"The 50s and early 60s were the hey-day of testing," says Bolton. "New prototypes were ten a penny then. It is not so much new planes now as new functions — new loads to lift, new refuelling techniques, new weapons to bolt on to the wings. Today's planes cost too much to take risks with and computerized mathematical modelling minimizes the amount of test flying that needs to be done. But the test pilot's place is still crucial. Whenever there is a new idea, someone has to try it for the first time."

George Hill

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1112

ACROSS

- 1 Harbinger (6)
- 4 Great trouble (6)
- 7 Struggle (4)
- 8 Atmospheric wine (8)
- 9 Talk priority never (7)
- 11 Giver (5)
- 12 Early New Yorker (13)
- 15 Hoard (5)
- 16 Accelerate (5,2)
- 18 Rejuvenating (8)
- 21 Action (4)
- 22 Attack object (6)
- 23 Scarcely (6)

DOWN

- 1 Suspended bed (7)
- 2 Re-equip (5)
- 3 Backless couch (5)
- 4 Borrow for fire (4)
- 5 Empty Russian satellite (7)
- 6 Upper atmosphere (5)
- 10 Leg foot joint (5)
- 11 Buzz (5)
- 13 Front tooth (7)
- 14 Quickly (7)
- 15 Diamond measure (5)
- 17 Field of play (5)
- 18 Awe (5)
- 19 Manner of walking (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1111

ACROSS: 1 Cruise 4 Scotch 9 Diverse 10 Rerun 11 Alias 12 Reprise 14 Remonstrance 18 Mirador 19 Lard 21 Datum 24 Assault

DOWN: 1 Code 2 Anvil 3 Threshold 5 Car 6 Torment 7 Hostel 8 Territorial 11 Air 13 Parfiche 15 Erratic 16 Err 17 Smudge 20 Age 21 Zeal 23 Mar

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FRIDAY PAGE



The writer through one pair of eyes: "a definite reflection of my face, not so much my face now as a picture I have at home, of myself at six years old"

Me as I am as I was

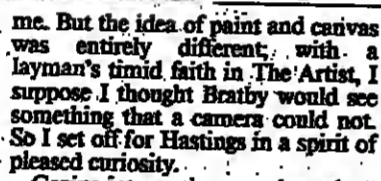
The invitation was virtually irresistible. On florid bohemian notepaper adorned with a giant sunflower, John Bratby (RA, ARCA, etc) was asking if he could paint me. "Your individuality, what you are, what you have done and what you are doing, your personal distinction from Humanity's Mass, is the reason," he typed enticingly.

He had, he continued, already portrayed faces-to-face such persons as "Lord Gormley, the Queen Mother, Sir Alec Guinness, Paul McCartney and Sir Michael Edwards". It would take less than four hours, and his wife Patti would feed me a light lunch. The address was "The Cupola and Tower of the Winds", in Hastings.

Well, people have travelled further for less flattering reasons, and to less romantic addresses. After all, the vague but splendid encomium which opened the letter was brilliantly calculated. Unlike most flattery, it did not immediately arouse mistrust or suspicion; we are all doing something, after all, even if it is only raising a family and scratching a living.

Besides, I longed to meet Bratby. His haunting picture of Guy the Gorilla had been in the back of my mind ever since I saw it 10 years ago. And Bratby was one of the legends I grew up with; a key personality of the century, I knew about his splashy, angry kitchen-sink paintings of the Fifties, his enfant terrible status, his rows with the art establishment, his overpublicized divorce and endearing remarriage to Patti Prime, whom he met through a lonely hearts column. I had heard rumours of the turreted fastness in Hastings where the middle-aged Bratby had taken to painting a series of portraits of politicians, actors, celebrities and now journalists. The few I had seen, I rather liked.

It was an offer Libby Purves could not refuse - to join Lord Gormley and Paul McCartney among the ranks of those whose portrait has been painted by John Bratby (left)



me. But the idea of paint and canvas was entirely different, with a layman's timid faith in 'The Artist, I suppose I thought Bratby would see something that a camera could not. So I set off for Hastings in a spirit of pleased curiosity.

After two hours he cheered up, looked less worried, and told me a few stories about the way people respond to seeing their pictures. It is, after all, quite a shock to be done by Bratby; one sitter compared it to being hit by a lorry. He is slightly offended at the idea that some of his brightly-coloured, fierce pictures are disliked by the sitters (quite a few don't buy them); "My pictures are celebrations of people. Not awful. Not any more."

At intervals throughout the sitting, Patti came in and gave him small green folded pieces of paper, which he would turn away and study with terrible intentness. I wondered what they were: betting slips? Clippings of domestic disasters? I did not dare ask, although he was very chatty by now, expounding on the pros and cons of living in Hastings, especially in the dead of winter. "A very... conventional society." Then: "Would you like to see your picture?"

right of centre, politically, than I had expected. After two hours he cheered up, looked less worried, and told me a few stories about the way people respond to seeing their pictures. It is, after all, quite a shock to be done by Bratby; one sitter compared it to being hit by a lorry. He is slightly offended at the idea that some of his brightly-coloured, fierce pictures are disliked by the sitters (quite a few don't buy them); "My pictures are celebrations of people. Not awful. Not any more."

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Making sheaths safer

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Studies have shown that condoms are particularly effective in reducing the spread of gonorrhoea and less successful - yet still very useful - in containing oocyst-specific urethritis and syphilis. Evidence is now being advanced to support their use in the battle against Aids, by making sexual intercourse safer.

Another research project has been comparing the fate of infection-free (sero-negative) sexual partners of Aids victims in relation to the use of otherwise barrier methods. Thirty-two patients with Aids were studied. Eight couples abstained from sexual intercourse - none of the sero-negative partners became HIV sero-positive. Fourteen Aids patients persisted with intercourse without using a condom - 12 of the partners became sero-positive. Ten couples used condoms - only one caught the infection.

Hip hooray

The recently discovered body of a British soldier killed in the American War of Independence was known to be that of a countryman long before experts had traced the buckingshire Light Infantry. The clue for pathologists was the wear and tear in the hip joints, for although people from all walks of life suffer osteoarthritis in these joints it is particularly prevalent in farm labourers.

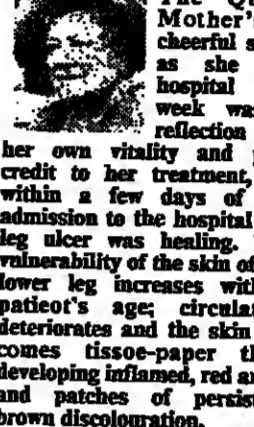
new head works loose because the cement which holds it in place is in the long term, biologically and chemically incompatible with bone. (It is an ideal operation, of course, for older patients, with 20,000 satisfied patients a year.) The Norwich surgeons' artificial implant is still made of titanium, but instead of relying on cement to keep it in position, the stability of the joint is maintained by a perfect fit coupled with a design which encourages tiny bone "pegs" to grow into interstices in the implant.

Simple test for a child killer

Neuroblastoma, one of the most common - and lethal - tumours of early childhood, affects one child in every 12,000. Now a simple screening test to detect it at a stage when treatment would be effective is being evaluated during the next year in 40,000 Tyneside children. The growth usually affects the adrenal, but can start in any part of the sympathetic nervous system. It is normally present as an abdominal or thoracic swelling, but can occur behind the eye. The tumour gives rise to increased levels of serum urinary catecholamines which can be detected by simple laboratory tests.

Over the past 14 months 30 patients have had the new hip implants so far have been very encouraging. The hip pressures which are transmitted through them - engineers have worked out that a 15-stone Norfolk farmer's hip would have to contend with a load of up to 2 tons if he had to run at work.

Royal ulcer



The Queen Mother's cheerful smile as she left hospital last week was a reflection of her own vitality and paid credit to her treatment, for within a few days of her admission to the hospital her leg ulcer was healing. The vulnerability of the skin of the lower leg increases with a patient's age; circulation deteriorates, the skin becomes thinner, developing inflamed, red areas and patches of persistent brown discoloration.

Dr Janette Anderson's theory that if spectacles are used in the first year or short-sighted child is far more likely to have near-normal vision three years later.

TALKBACK

could be restored to normal by electro-massage. Electrodes were doly clamped, twice a week for six weeks, to the back of my neck, and I think I must have been at least partially cured as I was released from wearing glasses except for reading.

Boys get dog tired

It was not an unreasonable request and we had half expected it. Yet, when it came, our hearts sank. "Daddy, Mummy, could we have a dog?" No-one could accuse us of trying to avoid pets altogether. It was just that we had hoped the cat would do.



While we were deliberating, a friend asked us to look after his dog over a weekend. Fred duly arrived and when we first took him down the lane, the boys came too, quite eagerly. On the Saturday afternoon we had a splendid walk on the common. Strangers who normally avoided eye-contact exchanged smiles and friendly words with us. They told us about their dogs, past and present.

Look a million dollars for our official opening at 61 Piccadilly

Advertisement for Piccadilly Fur Superstore. Features a large image of a fur coat and a list of items with prices. Includes text: "LAST CHANCE THIS WEEKEND ONLY", "...for 1/10th of the price.", "EVERYTHING UP TO 90% OFF", "We're open tomorrow and Sunday."

Advertisement for HEAL'S. Features a large image of a tableware set and text: "EXCLUSIVELY AT HEAL'S", "196 Tottenham Court Road London W1", "20% off boxed sets, while stocks last", "Elegant, distinctive, award winning design", "Dishwasher safe", "An ideal Christmas gift".



Tebbit upstaged

Only a week after Norman Tebbit severed links with the Federation of Conservative Students for being embarrassingly right wing, I discover that Sir Alfred Sherman, Mrs Thatcher's former adviser, plans a replacement body which will surely vex Conservative Central Office. Sir Alfred dismisses Tebbit's proposed alternative, the Conservative Collegiate Forum, as a retrograde step because "it is being set up from above and aimed at people whose views correspond with the Prime Minister's". He intends to call his organization simply the Liaison Committee and says the emphasis will be on students affiliating with local constituency associations and getting involved in "the real world" rather than setting themselves apart, as he considers the FCS did. He is appealing for funds and on Monday will meet former FCS members in discussion strategy.

Poll tacks

A pointer in how the parties will fare at the next general election comes from I.G. Index, a London-based financial bookmaker whose 8,000 clients have registered their preferences rather than their personal preferences, as in an opinion poll. They have the Conservatives ahead with 303 seats and Labour second with 272. This time last year the forecast was 285 and 240 respectively. Terrible tidings therefore for the Alliance - last year: Liberals 53, SDP 45; this year: 29 and 20. For the record, IGI punters back early October 1987 as the election date.

Tell George

The Esperanto Parliamentary Group (remember Esperanto, the language to end all languages?) has its sights on air traffic control. It claims that five accidents in the past 25 years have been caused wholly or partly by misunderstandings over the use of English, the official language of the air, as of the sea. (I would not dare hazard a guess as to the number of crashes if pilots and controllers suddenly started talking in the gibberish of Esperanto). The group also claims that "Esperanto is catching on", citing such breakthroughs as its use on Radio Peking and Norwegian railway timetables. What's Esperanto for "pull the other one"?

Near miss

The Prince and Princess of Wales came perilously close to bumping into General Idi Amin in Saudi Arabia this week. The day before they visited a British trade fair there. Amin, former despot of Uganda, was spotted wandering round the stand with two burly bodyguards picking up brochures. Some stall-holders pointedly refused to talk to him. Amin lives in a villa near Jeddah, guarded by his own men, and frequently eats in the city's top restaurants.



BARRY FANTONI

Half measures

While everyone else seemed to be glugging Beaujolais Nouveau yesterday, I celebrated the 50th anniversary of Pierre Janneau's chairmanship of Janneau, the Armagnac brandy company, with several glasses of a new blend called Cinqcentenaire. Pierre's involvement in the 135-year-old family business dates back in 1936 when, after a riding accident, he spent three months convalescing in, of all places, the distillery. His son Etienne, the managing director, tells me that sampling their wares is such an occupational hazard for the company's salesmen that half of those in Hong Kong have only one kidney.

Last words

Meat baron Lord Vestey has decided that mum's the word because of the trouble that has followed his speeches in the House of Lords. Not that there have been very many - three in 15 years, to be precise. In the first he advocated friendly relations with Argentina; soon after one of his company's managers there was kidnapped and held for a £1 million ransom. Next, he told the Royal Smithfield Club, he spoke up for New Zealand lamb - "and we all know what happened to that." After his last speech, on Sunday trading, "I got lots of letters and was elected to something called SOS - Save Our Sundays - but I don't know what I am supposed to do." The rest is silence.

Nuclear debate: Andrew McEwen previews Mrs Thatcher's Paris talks; David Watt on the special relationship

United front on a European deterrent

The Prime Minister could be forgiven for envying her French host today when she arrives in Paris to brief President Mitterrand on her talks last weekend with President Reagan. Unlike Mrs Thatcher, the French leader has public opinion firmly behind him on the entire issue of nuclear deterrence.

A socialist president leading a conservative French government in unanimous national support for *la force de frappe* might seem ironic enough. A more subtle paradox is that Mrs Thatcher, regarded as Reagan's closest European ally, is far closer to Mitterrand in her sceptical view of the grand disarmament designs so nearly agreed at Reykjavik.

Almost six weeks of confusion have followed the summit meeting. Hopes for a less heavily armed world soared and crashed, only to be followed by a more sober realization that fewer nuclear weapons might mean less security.

As the two major European nuclear powers compare notes on the superpower negotiations, what are their respective post-Reykjavik perspectives?

It is important to distinguish between cautious and incautious disarmament. France, Britain, West Germany and nearly everyone else would support the removal of Soviet SS20 and US cruise and Pershing 2 missiles from central Europe provided the British and French deterrents and other nuclear weapons remained. The effect: de-escalation without changing the balance. There is also broad agreement, though details remain in dispute, that this should

be accompanied by restraints on short-range weapons.

The stumbling block remains Soviet insistence on linking this to a more ambitious package including in test laser-based anti-missile defences in space. This week Whitehall has been more optimistic that the Kremlin may eventually drop this linkage.

There is also broad accord with the Reykjavik goal of eliminating 50 per cent of US and Soviet - but not British or French - strategic weapons over five years. Again, differences of detail remain.

The area of real disagreement lies in the ultimate objective. In this Reagan is closer on paper, but presumably not in practice, to Mikhail Gorbachev than to his European allies.

The French know exactly where they stand on this. Both left and right regard Reagan's proposal to eliminate all ballistic missiles at the end of 10 years as dangerous heresy, and the Soviet plan to do away with all strategic weapons in the same timescale as pure fantasy. They see no serious alternative to nuclear weapons as the guarantor of European liberty. The

French believe that Mrs Thatcher agrees with these views, and they are undoubtedly right, however much Whitehall hedges about her position with caveats.

"The difference between the British and the French view is that we express ours clearly. France regards these proposals with the utmost anxiety," said a senior French official.

Seen through French eyes, Mrs Thatcher is bound by three chains: her loyalty to Reagan, her dependence on US weapons and her need to avoid appearing to be against disarmament. She will no doubt seek to reassure Mitterrand that Reagan is showing more sympathy towards Europe's anxieties following their meeting last Saturday.

The joint declaration made at Camp David is interpreted in Whitehall as meaning that Reagan is edging away from his dream of a missile-free world. Ever since Mrs Thatcher arrived home there has been pressure to play down what, on paper, appears to be the most important issue of our times. Her advisers say there is no point in worrying about a proposal that will not be put into effect in the

foreseeable future; the order of priority agreed at Camp David will ensure that abolition of all ballistic missiles is not for this century.

Whether the declaration's failure to mention abolition of all ballistic missiles reinforces Whitehall's interpretation or shows it to be wishful thinking is hotly debated. Reagan's latest declarations appear to face both ways simultaneously. It is significant that he has stressed "all our proposals are still on the table", and that two administration officials usually regarded as hawks have made statements this week apparently supporting the missile-abolition goal. The Americans have not withdrawn this element from their proposals at the strategic arms talks in Geneva.

Both France and Britain are determined to retain their independent deterrents unless the vast cuts in conventional forces, abolition of chemical weapons and much else can be agreed.

The French are determined to proceed with their equivalent of the transition from Polaris to Trident, replacing submarines with carry longer-range missiles with more warheads. Mitterrand, not his conservative premier, Jacques Chirac, personally controls the deterrent that he once opposed as strongly as our Labour Party now opposes Polaris/Trident.

But such is French unanimity that when Mrs Thatcher lunches with Chirac she will be hard pressed to detect a difference of nuclear perspective.

Andrew McEwen is Diplomatic Correspondent of The Times.

Slim pickings at Camp David

Broadly, two verdicts have been passed on Mrs Thatcher's trip to Camp David last weekend. The first is that she proved once again that Britain's "special relationship" with America lives on - and pays off. The other that in backing President Reagan over the Iranian affair she put good money on a losing number and got nothing valuable back.

Neither of these rival interpretations is wholly satisfactory. Things are much more complicated than either theory would imply. For instance, it is true that Mrs Thatcher got less than she might have liked on the nuclear question, as connoisseurs of diplomatic fine print may note. The meeting did not produce a joint communiqué, but merely a document issued by the Prime Minister and "agreed" by the White House - not quite the same degree of American commitment.

The statement in it that the President "confirmed his full support for the arrangements" made to moderate the British deterrent with Trident falls short of full support for the decision in moderation. Again, as others have pointed out, the phrase that Nat's present strategy "would continue to require effective nuclear deterrence, based on a mix of systems" does not entirely dispose, as Mrs Thatcher would like, of the President's vision of a world without strategic nuclear weapons; for Nato's existing strategy can always be wrenched around to accommodate a radical superpower agreement.

Nevertheless, it is not true that Mrs Thatcher came away empty-handed. She has secured a public assurance that the Reagan administration will not pull the rug from under Trident before the British general election or rush, after all, into an arms control agreement without considering allied interests. And the significance of this assurance goes well beyond its substance.

Far more important than the detail is the fact that it suggests to the world that Mrs Thatcher has more influence over President Reagan than any other leader, with the possible exception of the Israeli prime minister. To the Europeans, this has its sinister aspect - a throwback to the Anglo-Saxon exclusivity that General de Gaulle used to complain about - but that complaint is softened by Mrs Thatcher having effectively represented the concerns of all the European members of the Nato alliance.

Likewise, the Arab world will no doubt smile cynically over Mrs Thatcher's ringing endorsement of Reagan's integrity in agreeing to supply arms to Iran but will still tend to regard her as a person of more consequence after her visit than before on the timeless Oriental principle that whoever is in favour with the sultan is worth cultivating.

Does this mean, then, that the special relationship remains the key to British foreign policy? Can we fit back 30 years to the world of Harold Macmillan and his "Greecian" influence over the "Roman" emperors, Eisenhower

and Kennedy? Mrs Thatcher, like James Callaghan and Harold Wilson before her, sometimes gives the impression that she thinks we can, but the truth is not so accommodating.

It is obviously in British interests to retain a strong entry card in Washington and to keep it valid by means of a sustained public relations job on American public opinion. It is also quite often in our interests, for the reasons I have just mentioned, to give a greater impression of intimacy with what we actually possess. What is dangerous is to overestimate the possibilities of the relationship and to believe all our own propaganda about it.

Failure to observe this caution led in some spectacular British disillusionments even at the height of the alliance - the end of Lend-Lease, the McMahon Act, Suez and Skybolt all demonstrated the firm priority of American interests.

Today the limitations are far greater, partly because Britain has less power and therefore less leverage, and partly because of the extreme frivolity of the Reagan regime. All American governments periodically sacrifice long-term foreign policy considerations to the need for a "quick fix" of some domestic political problem, but the present administration has raised this practice almost to a point of principle.

The Strategic Defence Initiative is the most serious example, with the Reykjavik pledges not far behind. The Daniloff swap and the latest attempt to get the Middle East hostages out in time for the midterm elections by butting up the Iranians are lesser incidents in the same mould.

It is perfectly possible to rationalize, after the event, that it makes very good sense for the US to begin to do what Britain and France have been doing since 1980, namely, trying to keep some kind of relations with both sides in the Iran-Iraq war, but the fact remains that that is not what Robert McFarlane, the former National Security Adviser, went to Tehran or why the American arms were sold.

The rather commonplace conclusion to be drawn by all America's allies, including Britain, from the available evidence is that the Reagan government is not to be wholly relied on. It has followed a wildly inconsistent policy on East-West relations and arms control; its Middle East policy has no firm foundations except the Israeli connection and a determination to keep the Soviet Union out of the region. The loss of the Senate to the Democrats and the damage to the President's credibility caused by the Iranian fiasco simply add a new dimension of "lame duck" uncertainty.

Mrs Thatcher is quite right to try to use her own standing and historical sentiment in order to maintain some marginal influence over this scene; after all, the US is the only superpower we have. But she should not delude herself that by these means she can secure British interests, even Trident, on more than a provisional basis.

Edgar Palamountain argues that the market cannot be left to itself

Takeovers: who benefits?

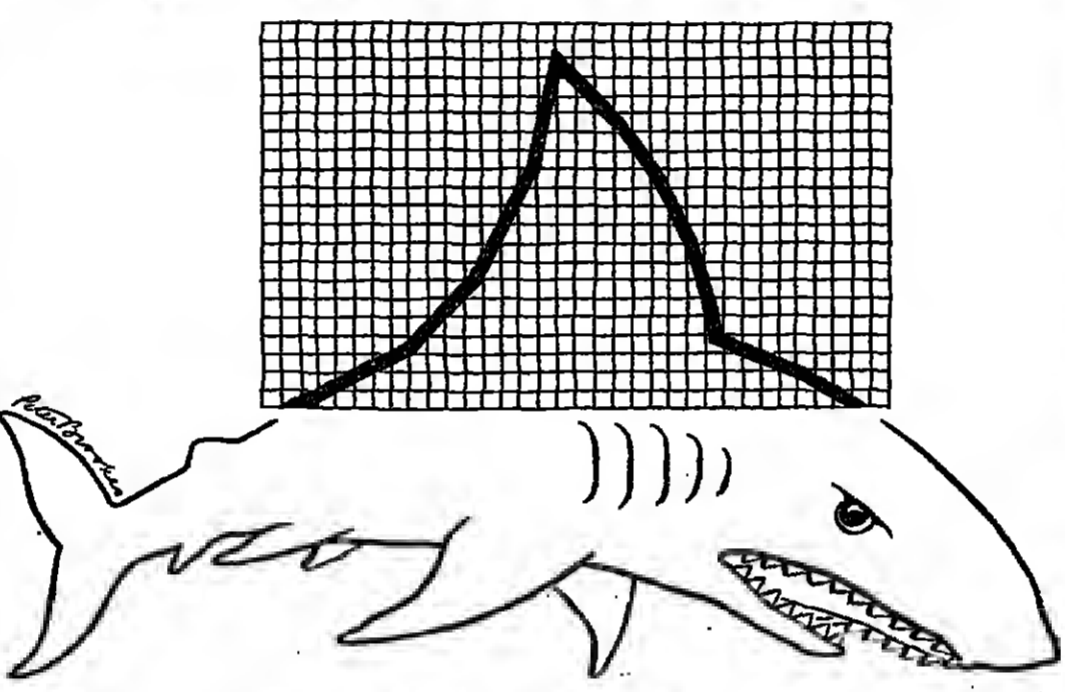
BTR's £1.2 billion bid yesterday for Pilkington Brothers, Britain's biggest glass manufacturer, can only heighten the public belief that the City's principal activity is launching takeovers or fighting them off. This impression is, of course, exaggerated: even financial writers are not immune from the journalist's penchant for personality and conflict. But the truth is not that far removed.

The case for mergers and takeovers as a whole, including - and perhaps especially - unwelcome takeover bids, is that they improve overall management efficiency and hence the productivity of industry and commerce. With a contested takeover some such improvement is to be expected whether the bid is successful or not: a successful bid installs what is presumed to be a superior management, while an unsuccessful bid can have a salutary effect in concentrating wonderfully the minds of the threatened managers. It is further, and plausibly, contended that the mere possibility of a bid keeps the management of possible target companies on their toes.

More generally, those satisfied with the existing situation argue that mergers and takeovers are natural elements in a free market economy which would be distorted and impaired by their restriction. The consequences of mergers and takeovers have been the subject of growing academic research, though assessment is difficult and the results inconclusive. Certainly it is not true that takeover bids are a necessary condition of a successful economy; the Germans and the Japanese seem to get on well without them. And the objections to contested takeovers are numerous and formidable. For the purpose of this article five main objections will suffice.

First, in many companies long-term planning, particularly research and development and capital investment, is distorted by the fear of a takeover bid because such expenditure, however desirable for the future, immediately depresses profits and the price of the company's shares. Such inhibition of research and development and of investment cannot be beneficial to the economy.

Secondly, takeover bids exacerbate conflicts of interest between directors and managers on the one hand and shareholders on the other. This applies on both sides. Taking the predator company first, the interests of its shareholders, like all other shareholders, are in the maximization of earnings per share and a rise in the share price. Such interests, as we have seen, may or may not be advanced by the takeover; in the short term they will almost certainly be



depressed by the expenses incurred. To the directors and managers, however, what matters is size: an enlarged company conventionally justifies higher salaries, bigger cars, grander offices, deeper pile carpets and so on.

With the target company, the position is reversed. Shareholders almost certainly stand to gain from the bid, if only because it invariably results in a marked increase in the value of their shares. The directors and managers, on the other hand, have everything in lose - including their jobs. It is, of course, this situation that has given rise to the "poison pill" industry, by which managements of target companies devise schemes to make a takeover more difficult. This phenomenon is good news for lawyers but hardly for anyone else.

Thirdly, and beyond any question, a contested takeover bid involves a major diversion of management resources, particularly at the top. For months on end the executive directors of the predator company will be occupied in the preparation or subsequent improvement of the offer and in making plans for assimilation of the target company in the event of the offer succeeding - "making bids when they should be making widdits".

As for the target company, once the bid is announced it is hard to conceive of the directors being able to concentrate on anything else. The management of both companies must inevitably suffer. Fourthly, perhaps the most conspicuous feature of contested takeover bids is the expenditure involved - including professional fees, commissions, mailing, advertising, public relations. The director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies has estimated that ex-

penses incurred for the major contested takeover bids made during the past 12 months amounted to no less than £500 million. This, he observed, is many times the yearly cost of all management education and training in the UK. Virtually the whole of this expenditure is unproductive and the entire burden of it falls on the shareholders.

The last point to make is possibly the most serious. If responsible shareholding is to be extended, both present and potential investors must have confidence in the financial markets and in the framework within which they operate. The publicity inevitably given to these takeover battles puts such confidence at risk. The impression is created, or reinforced, that the City in general, and the Stock Exchange in particular, is nothing better than a jungle in which fortunes are made and great power is exercised by a small number of predators and speculators whose activities the small shareholder is virtually powerless to influence.

Such a development is not in the best interests of a property owning democracy, or of the capitalist system as a whole. By the end of this year there will probably be seven million shareholders in this country. The cause of wider share ownership is not advanced by the picture which outsiders are inevitably forming of the City and its operations. That picture is influenced now by the Geoffrey Collier case (with more likely to follow) coming immediately after the Ivan Boesky scandal on Wall Street. Both were guilty of insider trading, and it is in the takeover field that the man with inside information has the strongest temptation and the greatest opportunity.

What, if anything, is to be done about all this? The free market answer would be nothing: let the market sort it out. What this ought to mean in practice is that the poison-pill industry would take up the running and that, in a sense, is fair enough provided that the pill merchants, in their turn, are not hobbled by company law and securities regulation.

The alternative is to change the existing rules. A "broad brush" proposal of these lines was made by Conservative peers in a recent House of Lords debate; why not, they said, refer all major bids to the Monopolies Commission and make its criterion of approval positive, i.e. the bidder would have to show that the bid was actually in the public interest instead of merely not against it.

Advocates of competition will probably think this is going too far and that any solution must preserve the essential feature of pressure on underperforming managements. In an ideal world, of course, such pressure is simply applied by the shareholders, but existing institutional arrangements have failed to make this effective.

The best solution probably lies in the adoption of "two-tier" boards on the German and Dutch models by which the hands of independent directors would be greatly strengthened. Independent directors have not been an unqualified success as champions of shareholders or controllers of executives, but recent events at STC and Beechams afford at least some encouragement to those of us who believe that this is still the right way forward.

© Times Newspapers, 1986. The author is chairman of the Wider Share Ownership Council.

When Reagan first helped Khomeini

Soviet spy inside GCHQ, the imp secret communications centre at Cheltenham.

At first M16 kept Kuzichkin to itself. But finally, after debriefing sessions at a country house in Sussex that went on for many months, it allowed him to go to the United States to be questioned by the CIA. It, too, was given the KGB dossier. Soon after - according to Washington reports it was a joint M16-CIA decision - the dossier was passed on to the Iranian authorities. They took swift action. About 200 agents and collaborators are thought to have been executed and 18 Soviet diplomats were expelled. KGB operations in Iran were crippled.

As President Reagan comes in for growing criticism over the arms-for-hostages deal, the Kuzichkin incident is invoked by Washington officials to demonstrate that the US has been

involved in behind-the-scenes exchanges with the Khomeini leadership for some years. They say it was one of many ploys to try in vain favour with Iran and in diminish Soviet influence in a country bordering the Soviet Union and of great strategic importance to the West.

In October 1982 the defection was carefully leaked to British journalists by Whitehall. Details of Kuzichkin's importance were emphasized, probably to demonstrate that British intelligence did have its successes as well as its failures. The Americans, without any intelligence sources of their own since the abortive attempt to rescue the American embassy hostages during the Carter presidency, must surely have been impressed.

Kuzichkin had served in Iran for five years before defecting. He was in charge of the so-called KGB

"illegals" - Soviet citizens trained to work under deep cover and adopting fictitious identities to infiltrate key areas of government administration and defence-related industry in foreign countries - and responsible for recruiting low level agents from among Iranian nationals. He travelled all over the country and formed links with tribal groups.

For much of that time, it is believed, he was a double agent working for the British. If that is so, his defection was clearly a necessity, his life no doubt at risk, rather than a choice. His wife stayed behind.

Kuzichkin has apparently settled down well in Britain. He is a very cultured man who, it is said in the murky world of counter-intelligence, enjoys good company and loves opera. But, like all Soviet defectors he has to be on the alert 24 hours of the day. Indeed, only two months ago it was claimed that Bulgarian secret agents in Britain had tried to recruit a journalist on the *Morning Star* to trace him so that he could be killed.

Michael Evans
Whitehall Correspondent

moreover . . . Miles Kingston

Yes, I do want to alarm you

Today we have a very special offer indeed. It is for the Moreover Alarm Clock, which is available to you for only £17.99 each (plus postage and packing of £4.50).

What is different about the Moreover Alarm Clock? Why is it different from all the other alarm clocks which crowd the market at this moment? Does it cook a boiled egg for you or something?

Well, yes, it does actually, but that's not the thing that makes the Moreover Alarm Clock different from any other alarm clock ever invented. What makes it so special is that it is guaranteed to wake you up every time.

Consider other clocks. They make beeping noises. Or they turn the radio on. Or they ring bells. But whatever noise they make, you know that with practice you can outlast it. The average human mind can adapt itself to the average alarm clock and ignore it.

Not with the Moreover Alarm Clock. First thing you hear from the Moreover Alarm Clock is the morning message, specially recorded on tape: "Hell's bells, is that the time? Oh, suffering Social Democrats, I'm going to be late again!" The air of panic, the slight touch of blasphemy, the archaic oath surrounding David Owen's gallant band of followers, all of these will alert your attention. If it doesn't, the next bit of recording surely will:

"And we welcome listeners to Test Match Special with the melancholy news, melancholy if you are British, that is, that England in their second innings are 11 for seven, with 187 still to score to avoid an innings defeat. It was the same old story, I'm afraid, with England batsmen throwing away their wickets with stupid, rash strokes just when they looked set for . . ."

Of course, you may not be interested in cricket. And who can blame you, the way cricket's going? But at least you'll have heard of Ian Botham, so you'll be interested in the next little bit of tape:

Botham. To all those who voted against my names Viv and Joel in the recent Somerset poll, I say this. I will get you all, one by one, in your beds as you sleep. I will kill, kill, kill . . ."

Of course, not a real recording by Botham or any of the others; they are all well-designed fakes to get you worried and awake. But if you should still be sleepy, we have three news reports of the most horrifying kind in get you awake; the kind that will have you bounding out of bed and beating the clock to death with a hammer. Here they are:

Today, the Prince and Princess of Wales strolled through the streets of Kinshasa as guests of Sheikh Omar El Soodhi. Fifty years ago this little town was only a collection of mud huts, until the discovery of oil . . ."

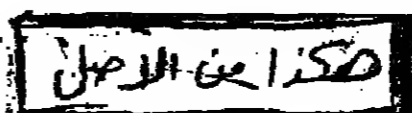
Horrific, eh? But not as deadly as:

"All parties saw a crumb of comfort in last night's by-election result at Muddley North. Although Labour had a greatly reduced majority, the Liberal didn't pull off the sensation they had hoped for, and the Tories barely scraped by with a saved deposit . . ."

Gruesomely boring, you'll agree. But not as boring as:

"And now, here are the headlines again . . . If this has still not got you out of bed, the Moreover Alarm Clock now descends to one of two different tactics, depending on your instructions. It can either go straight to plain insults, whereby it screams at you non-stop: "My God, you pathetic lump of lard, if only your friends could see you lounging there like an unwanted piece of offal . . ." or it goes over the top with a grave announcement: "Today, President Reagan announced that the United States had declared war on Russia. He stressed that this was in no way a military action, merely a measure of self-defence."

If this final effort still doesn't wake you up, the Moreover Alarm Clock now detonates and blows up the whole house. And serve you right, too.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

THE IRANIAN FIASCO

Nothing said in President Reagan's unimpressive and sometimes confusing press conference on Wednesday justifies a more favourable view of the flawed attempt to re-establish relations with Iran and to secure the release of American hostages in return for supplying arms and spare parts. It remains the most serious blunder of a presidency in which foreign policy blunders have not been unknown. It has undermined the theme of anti-terrorism in Mr Reagan's foreign policy, damaged relationships with America's allies, caused a serious rift with the new Democratic Congress, and cut sharply into the President's popularity.

It might be understandable if Mr Reagan had risked such setbacks for a policy that reflected his most profound convictions. Yet the fact is that his Iranian blunder is an uncharacteristic one, reminiscent more of President Carter's attempt to accommodate revolutionary movements in the Third World than of his own willingness to oppose state-supported terrorism with military force. How did such a policy come to be adopted?

It must be admitted that the broad initial premise was a sound one. It makes no sense for the United States to maintain an attitude of permanent hostility to a state like Iran which occupies a vital strategic position on the Persian Gulf, the source of 40 per cent of the world's oil. This is especially so since the Iranians feel under permanent threat from their powerful neighbour, the Soviet Union. Was this not a basis for rapprochement?

Such a delicate operation, however, would have been best begun either through intermediaries or at a fairly low diplomatic level. Through such channels, the US could have expressed the hope for better relations but pointed out that the main stumbling block to these was Iran's

support for terrorism. If evidence were forthcoming that such support had been abrogated — for instance, the release of American hostages in the hands of Iran-inspired terrorists — then the US and Iran would be able to discuss matters such as the American arms embargo in a warmer climate.

In the event, however, caution was thrown overboard and just about every possible mistake made. The first one was to seek negotiations with a sympathetic "moderate" faction in Tehran. The attempt to manipulate such factions from afar is doomed to failure when politics are foreign as those in Iran.

When hostages were then introduced into the diplomatic bargaining, the grand design of a US-Iranian rapprochement inevitably became a squalid deal to exchange favours for captives. Far from persuading Iran to abandon terrorism as an instrument of policy, such a deal encouraged a policy of seizing more hostages to obtain greater favours. And in the short interval since the three American hostages were released, another three Americans have been kidnapped in Lebanon.

Mr Reagan's principal mistake, however, was to make arms the *quid pro quo* for better Iranian behaviour. American opinion would not have objected strenuously to the opening of exploratory talks with Tehran as such. But the provision of guns broke his own arms embargo and transformed secret diplomacy into something like "covert action".

On the arms embargo, Mr Reagan protected himself legally by issuing a secret executive order lifting his obligation to abide by it. But "covert action" inhabits a notoriously murky constitutional area claimed by both President and Congress. If gun-running comes under the heading of foreign policy, then

it is reserved by the Constitution for the President. But if it counts as intelligence-related activity, then 1975 legislation binds the President to inform senior Congressional figures in a "timely" fashion. In either event, it was bound to maximise the anger and opposition of Congress when the news finally emerged.

Comparisons with Watergate, however, are very wide of the mark. Mr Reagan was employing executive secrecy in this matter not to conceal involvement in a crime but, however ineptly, to advance American interests.

It is no less mistaken to cite this episode as a failure of some wider "Reagan doctrine." That doctrine holds that anti-communist guerrillas fighting tyrannical Soviet-backed regimes in the Third World should receive moral and practical help from the United States. The opening to Iran was founded on quite different principles. It combined traditional great power diplomacy and the kind of "pragmatic" contact with terrorists which is generally recommended by those who are currently denouncing the President. Mr Reagan has lowered himself by seeking to implement the ideas of President Carter through the methods of Dr Kissinger.

He has already begun a sensible retreat by adjuring any further arms sales to Iran and candidly answering all questions on the Iranian fiasco. (His remarks on Israel seem to reflect confusion of mind rather than deviancy.) He should also consider whether any resignations are required from the National Security Council which devised and ran the operation. But the real lesson of this episode is that President Reagan should return to a clear, principled and vigorous policy of anti-terrorism. Super-subtle diplomacy is not for him.

MUNICIPAL SOCIALISM

The finding of the Court of Appeal that Brent Council does have the right to consider the case of Miss McGoldrick, the head teacher accused of racism, and to dismiss her against the recommendations of the school's governors, puts the matter back where it started: in the realm of party and local politics. It also raises an important question to which the government should address its mind.

Miss McGoldrick, a popular headmistress of a school whose pupils are overwhelmingly from ethnic minorities, firmly denies the allegation of racism, and has the support of the parents and staff of the school, as well as having been cleared by the governors. Brent Council nevertheless suspended her, only reluctantly allowing her return to the school when the now-overturned High Court ruling prohibited Brent from holding its own inquiry after the governors had cleared her.

Now, if it chooses, Brent can again take disciplinary action against Miss McGoldrick. It has given an undertaking, noted by the Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson, in his judgement, not to suspend or dismiss her on account of this alleged incident. But it could, and may, take other disciplinary action. Sir John

suggested that the Brent authority might regard the matter as closed but added that it "had to be a matter for them".

That is the worry. The legal basis of the judgement is the 1944 Education Act, which gives the local authority the right to dismiss a head teacher summarily on any ground without a recommendation of the governors. Nor are findings of the governors binding on the authority.

This is a judgement of great significance at a time when highly politicised local authorities act as both "legislators" (that is to say, they lay down their own undefined rules on "sexism", "racism" and the like) and as the final "judicial" authority in settling the fate of people accused of breaching them. Such a combination of political urges and "judicial" power offends equity, and neither Miss McGoldrick, nor any other teacher in local authorities ruled by those whom Mr Neil Kinnock stigmatises as Labour zealots, can feel safe from persecution. It must surely raise the question whether the 1944 Act should be amended to give governors the ultimate right of dismissal of head teachers, after hearing advice from the local education officer.

ONE STEP FORWARD

The decision by the Soviet authorities to permit a limited amount of private enterprise has elicited a contradictory response. According to some, it is a radical departure from previous Soviet theory and practice. According to others, it is so hedged about with restrictions that it will do little to improve the lot of the Soviet consumer. There is truth in both views.

In legalizing private cafes, taxis, repair shops and maintenance services, the Kremlin is admitting that there are areas where strict centralization and full public ownership — the policies it has pursued for more than 60 years — simply do not work. In terms of Soviet ideology, this admission is a great leap backwards.

The concession of the ideological point makes it theoretically possible for Moscow to privatize other areas of the Soviet economy too, in time. Potentially, therefore, the legalization of private services could herald a transformation both in the way the Soviet

system functions and in the way of life. It could start to encourage greater cost-consciousness, spawn a more efficient business sector and pave the way for fundamental — and necessary — changes in the Soviet Union's pricing and taxation system.

As they stand, however, the new measures amount to little more than official recognition of the present situation. Private taxis and repair services have been operating in the Soviet Union's black economy for years. They are expensive, and the wherewithal is often stolen from state employers — that being the only reliable way of obtaining scarce building materials and spare parts.

To this extent, the new provisions may be as much an attempt to curb pilfering of state property, moonlighting and extortion, as a genuine attempt to improve supplies and services. If they have the secondary effect of reducing prices for services and increasing their accessibility, then the Soviet consumer will also

This case is only one instance of the extremism in Labour town halls which has this week moved two Cabinet ministers to attack their intolerance. From detailed reporting of numerous cases in the national and local press, the public was already well aware of the truth, and Mr Kinnock has now admitted the potential electoral damage the extremists can do to his cause.

But the terms in which he spoke hardly inspire confidence that his principal interest is the liberty of the subject. His concern is rather that the extremists should not take action which can be used against the party, and should avoid sensationalism leading to "lurid headlines". What one would rather hear from him is a condemnation of such intolerance in principle. Instead he thinks in terms of damage to the party, claiming that the miscreants are a very small minority. He gives 99.9 per cent of Labour councils a clean bill because they do not attract "lurid headlines".

Yet many more than 0.1 per cent of Labour councils are on a sliding scale of extremism which ought to cause concern. It would be reassuring to hear Mr Kinnock attack what they do, not the embarrassment they cause.

benefit — but this will not guarantee any extension of private enterprise. Yet there are reasons, quite apart from the misgivings of ideological traditionalists, why an initial move towards private services had to be limited in scope. Most parts of the Soviet Union have had no legal private entrepreneurs for more than 60 years. The merchants of the 19th century and the speculators of the 1920s are the villains every child is taught to despise.

Today's Soviet adults have no experience of making or managing money legally. The business and enterprise culture that was burgeoning in Russia before 1917 has been lost. So have the habits of hard work and self-motivation, as Soviet industry knows to its cost. As a result, the reintroduction of even limited private enterprise presents problems of quite a different order from those it has posed in the countries of East and Central Europe or China. Russia's capitalist dawn will be a long time in coming.

Towards a deal on teachers' pay

From the President of the Secondary Heads Association
Sir, David Hart (Schools pay deal, November 17) is disingenuous. What has emerged from the Nottingham/Ascas talks is far from perfect; it would be remarkable if it were. But it is a good deal better than either its Coventry precursor or the threatened Baker package.

In respect of the former, it offers a framework within which schools can again be managed, and the contract and conditions of service to guarantee effectiveness. In respect of the latter, it offers a prospect of agreement rather than the compulsion that would destroy commitment and good will. Mr Hart clearly has his own reasons for withholding his support. My association, whose members lead three-quarters of our secondary schools, cannot share them. We believe the compromise in front of us forms a basis for a return to sanity.

It recognizes the aims of heads and deputies, who are the linchpins of the education service. It recognizes, too, in its proposals for salary, appraisal and contract, the importance of the highly experienced classroom teacher. And why not? Those of us who lead schools — particularly, perhaps, those of us who lead large secondary schools — know that such recognition is a precondition of recovery.

Two sheers for the agreement: it is worth more positive consideration than Mr Hart deigns to afford it. Yours faithfully, M. DUFFY, President, Secondary Heads Association, 107 St Paul's Road, NI, November 17.

From Mr Paul Savage
Sir, David Hart, General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, seems to ignore the basic fact that head teachers are only as good as the teams which they manage. He also appears to believe that all teachers have the ambition to eventually become head teachers.

Much discontent we would have if the latter were the case! There must always be a backbone of dedicated people who, for whatever reason, are content to derive satisfaction from doing a superb job at a junior level and head teachers must surely realise that such subordinates should be properly rewarded.

Mr Hart describes his members as being the "engine room" of the teaching service. He should realize that it is by divorcing head teachers from the rest of the crew that there is now mutiny over the bounty! Yours sincerely, PAUL SAVAGE, Curtesy, Mill Street, Islip, Oxfordshire, November 17.

Aid to Ethiopia

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton, Pavilion (Conservative) and Mr John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip-Northwood (Conservative)
Sir, Not surprisingly, Dr Jeremy Swift (November 10) defends the role of voluntary agencies working for development in Ethiopia in reply to the statements made by you on October 29 and subsequent to the defection of the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Wolde Giorgis.

For too long there has been confusion between humanitarian aid to the people of Ethiopia and the political purposes of the Ethiopian Government. They are two quite distinct and separate issues. These two disillusioned Ethiopian former high officials state that the Dergue has used the famine for its own purposes and thereby compounded its atrocious record on human rights. They call for the West to recognise the realities and to condemn this inhuman situation. Furthermore, by sustaining the Sudan People's Liberation Army in south Sudan, the Ethiopian Government is, by proxy, exporting famine to that region.

None of this is to denigrate the excellent work and good intentions of Dr Swift and others like him, but it is essential to assess the situation in Ethiopia in its totality and not just to concentrate upon the aid aspect, which has almost exclusively caught public attention since 1984. To do otherwise is to be in danger of condoning repression, albeit unwittingly. Yours faithfully, JULIAN AMERY (President, The British Horn of Africa Council), JOHN WILKINSON (Chairman), House of Commons.

Insider trading

From Mr D. C. Scott-Gatty
Sir, Insider trading is not new. In *The Present State of Great Britain* by John Chamberlayne, published in 1726, "forestalling the market" (essentially no different from insider trading) was stated to be punished with standing on the Pillory, Whipping, and sometimes by nailing one or both Ears to the Pillory, and cutting off or boring through the Tongue with a hot Iron. If this seems a trifle severe, you will be pleased to know that the passage continues:

But of late we have left off the cruelty cutting off Ears, severing Whipping, branding on the Fore-head, Boring the Tongue, and the like. The pillory, it seems, was sufficient deterrent. Yours faithfully, D. C. SCOTT-GATTY, 6 Lebanon Park, Twickenham, Middlesex, November 18.

Ulster's quest for democratic forms

From Dr C. M. A. Campbell
Sir, The view of democracy of a professional historian is a strange one (A.T.Q. Stewart, "Give us back our voice", November 15).

The Anglo-Irish Agreement was approved by a large cross-party majority in the House of Commons: clearly it represents the will of the people of the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland benefits enormously and disproportionately, economically and in terms of international status and influence, by being part of the United Kingdom; yet her population is less than 3 per cent of the total UK population and her people should recognize the consequences of this when it comes to democratic decision-making. The tail may not wag the dog.

The most recent attempt to allow Northern Ireland a greater degree of self-determination, the Assembly, failed because of the behaviour of the majority of elected Assemblymen, who abstained from the democratic process or sought to pervert it. Northern Ireland has the government she deserves. It is the responsibility of her people to look for alternatives at the imminent general election. Yours faithfully, C. CAMPBELL, Deerpark, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, November 15.

From Professor Paul Wilkinson
Sir, Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (November 17), has rightly exposed the egregious factual errors contained in Dr Stewart's account of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. But one cannot allow Dr Stewart's attempts to portray the British administration in Northern Ireland as a fascist tyranny to pass without comment.

Dr Stewart claims that HMG denies the Ulster people the glamour of mass rallies, of forests of scarlet flags and columns of black-shirted men marching past the Leader, while huge crowds cheer every word...

Can he really be unaware that the only people in the British Isles who habitually practise this obscene paramilitarism, along with terrorism and sheer political thugery of the type displayed at the "loyalist" demonstration on November 15, are citizens of Ulster?

Many continue to hope that Ulstermen of reason and independence will eventually have the courage to play a less sectarian form of politics, concentrating on the fundamental economic and social problems which transcend communal divisions. But one is driven to despair when a leading intellectual in the Ulster Protestant community can boldly assert:

The future of Northern Ireland will be decided by men with guns in their hands simply because there will be no one else to do it. We tend to blame political violence solely on the gunmen and

Curbing child abuse

From Mrs V. R. C. Gill
Sir, The great need in preventing child abuse is for children generally to be in touch with caring friends and neighbours.

What every neighbourhood needs is a "children's centre", a place that will attract children, in which to spend their leisure hours, and help for parents to be confident. This centre should have an adventure playground, a nursery, a library and quiet room for timid children and for homework, a bobbies room and an indoor playroom. (This, incidentally, would save public money by preventing much vandalism done by unloved, neglected children roaming the streets.)

It could be of great help in the work of caring for children by the social services and health visitors if the centre included a children's

hotel where children could stay while permanent arrangements were made for them, or if fostering arrangements broke down.

The fact that children were regular users of the children's centre would mean that the child was not plunged among strangers and could get to know his new foster parents. It could also be used to help families in crisis situations, where the mother was ill or the family situation in a state of stress.

If children and their parents became friends of the staff who ran the centre, they would have someone in whom to confide. Trained staff would spot the unhappy and "bruised" child and take appropriate action. Yours faithfully, VESTA GILL, 42 Hornbeam Spring, Knebworth, Hertfordshire, November 5.

excitement of the General Election of 1886 to bear this in mind, and to take measures with a view to cooling down as quickly as possible. There is not probably any very great danger of the professional politician becoming distraught or falling into a state of fever... It is the gambling adventures in politics or the local Party zealot who is most likely to suffer.

The well-known salt then comes to the rescue and "restores the nervous system to its normal condition, by preventing the great danger of poisoned blood and over-cerebral activity." Yours faithfully, ELAINE BISHOP, Dartington Parsonage, Totnes, South Devon, November 17.

From Mr R. N. Lines
Sir, On a recent visit to India I visited two old Christian cemeteries, at Patna and Bhsagalpur, containing the remains of a great number of civilian and military officers who served in India, and their families. There also the sad neglect which Mr Waller, whose letter you publish today, found.

While appreciating that the priority need of the churches is to care for present congregations and church buildings, interest costs no money and could help; respect of the dead calls for nothing less. There was no evidence, however, of any interest on the part of the hierarchy of the Church of North India. The contrast with Roman Catholic cemeteries still in use was striking. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS LINES, 21A Cheries Avenue, Little Chalfont, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, November 17.

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Election fever

From Mrs J. G. Bishop
Sir, Mr Craig (November 17) might like to know that a simple remedy is at hand. My copy of *The Girl's Own Paper* for July, 1886, carries an advertisement on its cover for Eno's Fruit Salt, the best remedy for that disease. It begins with a lengthy quotation from *The Lancet*, part of which I beg leave to reproduce here:

"Election Fever". This suggested addition to the nosological table may seem fanciful, but it is the simple expression of a fact. A General Election, like other popular turmoil, leaves its wrecks to drift to asylums... It would be well for those who are just now suffering from disturbances caused by the

excitement of the General Election of 1886 to bear this in mind, and to take measures with a view to cooling down as quickly as possible. There is not probably any very great danger of the professional politician becoming distraught or falling into a state of fever... It is the gambling adventures in politics or the local Party zealot who is most likely to suffer.

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Sport 'domination'

From Mr Alastair Waddington
Sir, May I respectfully suggest that Mr F. D. Goode's attitude towards Latin domination in sport (November 18) is indicative of why we have lost our influence in international sport. The development of the Latin and Soviet blocs was a direct reaction against the "disinterested" British aristocratic and imperial block which governed world sport at that time.

Instead of resigning in disgust at what others might regard as Latin and Soviet forward thinking, would not Mr Goode have done better to have stayed and fought from within the system? It was exactly this refusal to appreciate the commercial and social potential of sport that has left Britain with little influence in international sporting circles today. Yours faithfully, ALASTAIR WADDINGTON, Hadlow Lodge, Hadlow Down, Nr Uckfield, East Sussex.

In foreign fields

From Mr R. N. Lines
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ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 21 1910

In contrast to the harmony surrounding the celebration of Tolstoy's 80th birthday (On This Day, October 20, 1986), his last days two years later were turbulent and troubled. St Petersburg was alive with conflicting rumours, not only about the exact day of his death, but also relating to the details of his burial.

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

DEATH OF TOLSTOY.

ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 20. The hopes for Count Tolstoy's life have had but a short respite. The end came suddenly a few minutes after 6 o'clock this morning. Till within a quarter of an hour of the end the physicians still gave hope that the extreme weakness of the heart's action might in another day be overcome. Countess Tolstoy was admitted to her husband's bedside at 5.15, but he did not recognize her. At the moment of death the physician alone was in the room. The pianist M. Goldensweiser and Countess Alexandra were in an adjoining room.

Count Tolstoy experienced two violent cardiac attacks yesterday. During the second one he tried to rise and flung against the medical attendants who were forcibly holding him down. He declined to breathe the oxygen which was applied to revive him. Morphine was then injected, after which he dozed. Towards evening, Dr. Malokovetsky wanted the patient moved to another bed. Count Tolstoy finally consented, saying — "Do what you wish; it is all the same to me." Addressing his daughter Tatiana the sick man, almost with tears, said — "There are millions of suffering people in the world. Why are so many of you around me?" That was his last conscious utterance.

The Elder Vasnoothius, of Optin Hermitage, who came to Astapovo to give Count Tolstoy his blessing, was not admitted to the bedside. "Let me only stand at the threshold of the sickroom," he wrote to Countess Alexandra, "I want to fulfil my mission to bless the dying man"; but his request was not heeded.

It is presumed that the body will be removed via Moscow to Yasnaya Poliana. All the privately-owned theatres in St. Petersburg are closed this evening in token of mourning...

November 19. I understand that, in spite of attempts at mediation, differences are likely to arise between the family of Count Tolstoy and M. Vladimir Tchertkoff on account of the attitude of the latter towards Countess Tolstoy and in consequence of the manner in which he has acted towards Count Tolstoy during past years. M. Tchertkoff is in possession of Count Tolstoy's manuscripts including about 30 volumes of memoirs and a novel entitled "Hadji Mourat." It is believed that Countess Sophie was prevented from visiting her husband by M. Tchertkoff, whose influence over Count Tolstoy is attributed to the altruistic theories of which he has made himself the apostle.

ASTAPOVO, Nov. 20. It is stated that Count Tolstoy expressed the wish to be buried on the hill at Yasnaya Poliana where he had played as a child. Tolstoy's friends have started a movement for the acquisition by the nation of the house in which he died.

School children are visiting the death chamber, which is decorated with pine branches. Peasants from neighbouring villages are arriving at the station. Count Tolstoy's family are receiving telegrams of sympathy from many institutions and individuals. Three wreaths have been laid on the death-bed. The body has been embalmed.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 20. The Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovitch has sent a telegram to Countess Tolstoy, in which he says that "his whole soul is with her and her family at this sad moment."

The Russian *Znamya* publishes a poem addressed to the "heretic" Leo Tolstoy, in which the writer styles him "the rejected of God, the accused mocker of Christ and the shameless and insensate apostate." The poet quotes St. Mark iii, 29 — "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation."

We greatly regret that, in common with the chief Russian newspapers and practically the Press of the whole world, we published on Thursday last a premature announcement of Count Tolstoy's death. The news, which was telegraphed to us by our St. Petersburg Correspondent, was, it may be remembered, based upon a telegram sent by Prince Dmitry Obolensky to the *Moscow Vnemya*. It was generally believed that in Moscow theatrical performances were suspended, and the provincial newspapers for the most part appeared with black borders on the following day...

Bitter-sweet memory

From Mrs Wynne Weston-Davies
Sir, In 1945, for the princely sum of five rupees, my father-in-law purchased from his mess a large bottle of Angostura Bitters. Today, as on many another Sunday, we used the same bottle to prepare pre-lunch pink gins.

Does anyone know of an older bottle that is still working for its living? Yours faithfully, JULIA WESTON-DAVIES, 12 Fitzwilliam Road, SW4, November 16.

سكنا من الامم

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

IN DEATH OF my beloved son... BIRTHS: On November 19th, at Epworth... DEATHS: On November 19th, at Epworth...

MARTIN: On November 17th 1986, at King Edward VII Hospital... MARRIAGES: On November 17th 1986, at Epworth...

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PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS: DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANT THEIR ONLY HOPE... THE BRITISH KIDNEY PATIENT ASSOCIATION

FORSALE: YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS... CHAPPEL OF BOND ST PIANOS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: ITS ALL AT TRAILFINDERS... DISCOUNTED FARES

WINTER SPORTS: SKI WHIZZ... FREE HOLIDAY PRIZE DRAW

RENTALS: HOLLAND PK W11... BERKELEY ESTATES

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS: EXP Cooks... SUPER SECRETARIES

WHITAKER'S ALMANACK 1987... BIRTHDAYS

BIZET DOING NOTHING WRITING THE CHOPIN LIST... CHAPPEL OF BOND STREET

LOWEST FARES: Paris, Frankfurt, Rome... UP AND AWAY

BEST RENT FOR YOUR MONEY... RENTALS

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE

PUBLIC NOTICES: CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

WANTED: WANTED: WANTED: WANTED: WANTED

FLATSHARE: SEBASTIAN LAWYER... FLATSHARE

NEW LOW FARES: AMMAN, CAIRO, DUBAI... RENTALS

RENTALS: CLAPHAM, LUXURY FURNISHED... RENTALS

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ANNIVERSARIES: THE TIMES 1795-1986... ANNIVERSARIES

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Science report: Scents success in fight to save the otter... By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND... We can't care for the victims of cancer unless you do... Cancer Relief

WINTER SPORTS: JOIN BLADON LINES THIS CHRISTMAS AND SAVE £££'S

WINTER SPORTS: FURTHER INFORMATION... WINTER SPORTS

Service dinners: HMS Daedalus... Rear-Admiral I.E. Middleton

Service dinners: HMS Daedalus... Rear-Admiral I.E. Middleton

Service dinners: HMS Daedalus... Rear-Admiral I.E. Middleton

Service dinners: HMS Daedalus... Rear-Admiral I.E. Middleton

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET FT 30 Share 1259.8 (+1.0) FT-SE 100 1610.7 (+6.4) Bargains 27182 (26360) USM (Datastream) 129.13 (+0.35) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4170 (-0.0105) W Garman mark 2.4388 (-0.0117) Trade-weighted 67.6 (-0.4)

Boots lifts profit 14%

Boots, the retailing and pharmaceutical group, lifted profit in the six months to the end of September to £97.5 million, an increase of 14.8 per cent, on a turnover 8.4 per cent higher at £1.06 billion.

Goldsmith out of tyre battle

New York (Reuters) - Sir James Goldsmith gave up his attempt yesterday to take over Goodyear after 48 hours of confrontation with Mr Robert Mercer the Goodyear chairman at a US congressional hearing.

BET up 21%

BET, the industrial services, electronics and publishing conglomerate, made taxable profits in the six months to September 30 of £59.1 million, a rise of 21 per cent, on turnover up 7 per cent at £640.6 million.

Wound up

Hamilton Hogg, the City-based licensed dealer in securities, was compulsorily wound up in the High Court yesterday on a petition by the Department of Trade and Industry, whose inspectors have been investigating the company's affairs since September.

Granada stake

Granada will take a 20 per cent share in a new French company to be formed to purchase selected property, stock and the trading name of the French electronics retailer, Nasa, with the option to take 100 per cent ownership in five years' time.

Geest offer

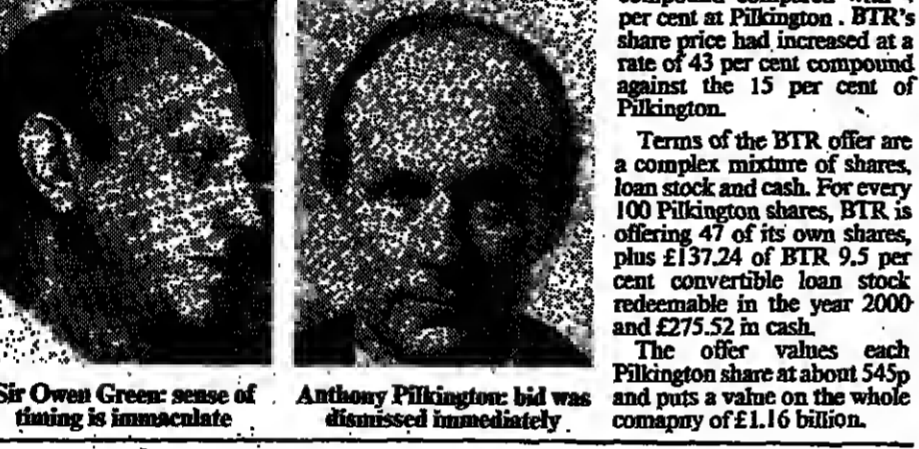
The offer for sale of 25.63 million Geest Holdings shares at 125p each was over-subscribed.

MARKET SUMMARY STOCK MARKETS New York: Dow Jones 1841.25 (+14.82) Tokyo Nikkei Dow 17304.56 (+20.73) Hang Seng 2245.95 (+2.81) Amsterdam: Gen 280.7 (+2.0) Sydney: AO 1330.9 (-1.43) Frankfurt Commerzbank 1975.2 (+4.00) Brussels: Generali 3282.53 (same) Paribas CAC 361.7 (+3.2) Zurich: SKA Gen 543.60 (same) London: FT A 80.48 (-0.28) FT: Gilt 80.48 (-0.28) Closing prices Page 31

INTEREST RATES London: Bank Base 11% 3-month interbank 11% 3-month eligible bills 10% 3-month Treasury Bills 5.34-5.32% 30-year bonds 10% CURRENCIES London: New York \$: £1.4170 DM: £2.4388 Sfr: £1.3620 ¥: £1.6080 US\$ 100: £640.60 FT: £100 80.48

BTR strikes with £1.2 billion bid for Pilkington

Sir Owen Green's BTR group yesterday made its long awaited takeover bid for Pilkington, Britain's biggest glass manufacturer and one of the few home grown companies to rank among the world's leaders in its industry.



Sir Owen Green: sense of timing is immaculate



Anthony Pilkington: bid was dismissed immediately

Strong growth in money supply

The money supply figures for October, the first to be produced on a calendar month basis, showed fast expanding credit and accelerating growth of narrow money.

Anger over Norton bid

The hotly-contested bid for McCorquodale, the specialist printer, exploded into acrimony at the 11th hour last night as Norton Opax, whose bid closes today, claimed that the offer had gone "partly unconditional".

Mercury to chase domestic market

Mercury Communications, the only licensed competitor to British Telecom, is aiming for more than 100,000 residential customers by the end of next year.



Sir Ralph Halpern: Top of the pay league

Burton chief's pay £1 million a year

Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman of the Burton Group, was paid just over £1 million in the year to August 30, nearly double his 1985 salary of £542,000.

Flood of Boesky loss cases

The United States government's insider trading case against Mr Ivan Boesky is almost certain to trigger an avalanche of private law suits by individuals and corporations who suffered market losses as a result of his illegal trading.

SE sets special terms for British Gas issue

The Stock Exchange has made special arrangements for the British Gas issue in an attempt to prevent the expected mass of small sales from clogging up its computers.

Berisford agrees £425m sweetener

The battle for control of British Sugar intensified yesterday when 5 & W Berisford formally announcing its agreement to sell 70 per cent of British Sugar to Ferruzzi, the Italian food and agricultural giant, for £425 million.

Mercury to chase domestic market

Mercury Communications, the only licensed competitor to British Telecom, is aiming for more than 100,000 residential customers by the end of next year.

B & C will pay £672 million in Exco takeover

British & Commonwealth Shipping, the investment company headed by Mr John Gunn, yesterday announced that it was buying Exco International, the money broker in an agreed bid worth £672.5 million.

Loan query on Brunei bank

Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puan, the Malaysian financier, yesterday found himself at the centre of what could be a big Asian banking scandal.

Profitable Beecham is in acquisitive mood

Beecham is on the lookout for an important acquisition, Mr Robert Bauman, the newly appointed chairman, said yesterday.

Galliford Year ended 30th June Dividends per share (pence) 1982 2.7 1983 3.0 1984 4.0 1985 4.4 1986 4.8

At the Annual General Meeting held on 20th November 1986, the Chairman, Mr. Peter Galliford, said: "Performance in the opening months of the current year has been encouraging and results are satisfactorily ahead of last year's comparable figures."

WADE Preliminary results for the year ended 31st July, 1986 * Pre-Tax Profits £1,670,999 * Dividend increased by 16 2/3% to 3.5p per share

WALL STREET

Prices rise as effects of scandal subside

New York (Reuters)—Share prices surged ahead in early trading yesterday as investors moved into fundamentally strong issues, particularly blue chips.

Table with columns for Nov 19 and Nov 18, listing various stocks and their price changes.

BP profits better than most City forecasts

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP yesterday shrugged off the fall in the world oil price, the decline in the value of sterling and a £1 billion loss on the value of its oil stocks to report higher-than-expected profits for the first nine months of this year.

Profits on a replacement cost basis of £1,577 million are running £241 higher so far this year compared with the corresponding period. In the third quarter they were £362 million, down on the corresponding period but still higher than most City forecasts.

The figures show that BP is now sitting on more than £4 billion in cash, although dividends and payments for its \$345 million (238.3) takeover of the Prudhoe Hills business in the United States will reduce that to just under

£3 billion by the beginning of next year. In addition, the Standard Oil business in the US has made a £116 million contribution to profits because of tax concessions despite losses on exploration. Its US marketing operations also moved into profit.

£14.5m bid for Grosvenor

By Judith Hamley

Associated British Ports Holdings, which went public in 1983, is making an agreed three-for-seven share offer for Grosvenor Square Properties, the Unlisted Securities Market developer set up by Mr Paul Marber. The bid values Grosvenor at £14.52 million.

James Sherwood's loss-making Sea Containers group. Sir Keith said: "We had an approach from Sea Containers two or three weeks ago, asking us if we might be interested in becoming involved in one or more of their sea ports."

Chloride surges on cost savings

By Alison Eadie

Chloride, the batteries group, is reaping the benefits of both cost-cutting measures announced in January and a reduction in pension contributions.

It made pretax profits in the six months to September 30 of £5.3 million against only £700,000 in the previous first half. The pensions holiday was worth £1.5 million.

Turnover decreased by 24.4 per cent to £127.1 million. Operating profits were 50 per cent higher at £7.8 million and interest costs more than halved to £2.3 million.

Extel lifts profits by 27% to £7.3 million

By Our City Staff

Extel, the news agency, printing and publishing group being stalked by Mr Robert Maxwell, made pretax profits in the six months to September 30 of £7.32 million, a rise of 27 per cent.

CBI chief urges self-help

By Our Energy Correspondent

British industry was told yesterday by Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, that it should not look towards the Government to improve its competitive position.

Speaking in the Midlands, he said that artificial pump pricing by the Government was no substitute for genuine company competitiveness in maintaining jobs or creating new ones.

Sir Terence said that the CBI is an intensely political organization but denied that it was party political. He said: "We stand up for, and speak for, business - which in the end will pay Britain's bills. We are interested in political action which will help British business to prosper. And we will speak up in favour of those policies which will help us do a better job."

"We are faced with a general election in the next 18 months and there are some who still believe that the Government, or another government, could radically improve our situation. This is one of the greatest confidence tricks of all time. The most a government can do is create an environment that helps business to flourish. But they cannot make it work. Only industry can do that."

The message we have still not properly got home is that there is no substitute in the end for greater competitiveness. We have to manufacture products with a competitive edge, of outstanding quality - and deliver on time if we are going to make our way in an increasingly demanding and fastidious world."

GEC eyes sales beyond Nimrod

By Anne Warden
The battle over the Nimrod early warning reconnaissance aircraft, on which the Government is due to make a decision in the next few weeks, is about contracts worth "10 times as much" as the Ministry of Defence order, according to GEC.

The group sees its MoD work as part of a broad strategy in which Britain can compete globally with American and Japanese conglomerates.

Mr Derek Roberts, joint deputy managing director in charge of technology, added: "For the next 50 years the Chinese market in every area that we work in is going to be the fastest growth area."

GEC already sells power engineering equipment to Japan, and was recently considering a quotation on the Tokyo stock market. It has contracts with Singapore, and has sold £1 billion worth of equipment to Hong Kong since 1980. This week the group disclosed that it had won a £50.4 million contract for cockpit display equipment for American fighter aircraft.

Table with columns for Nov 19 and Nov 18, listing various stocks and their price changes.

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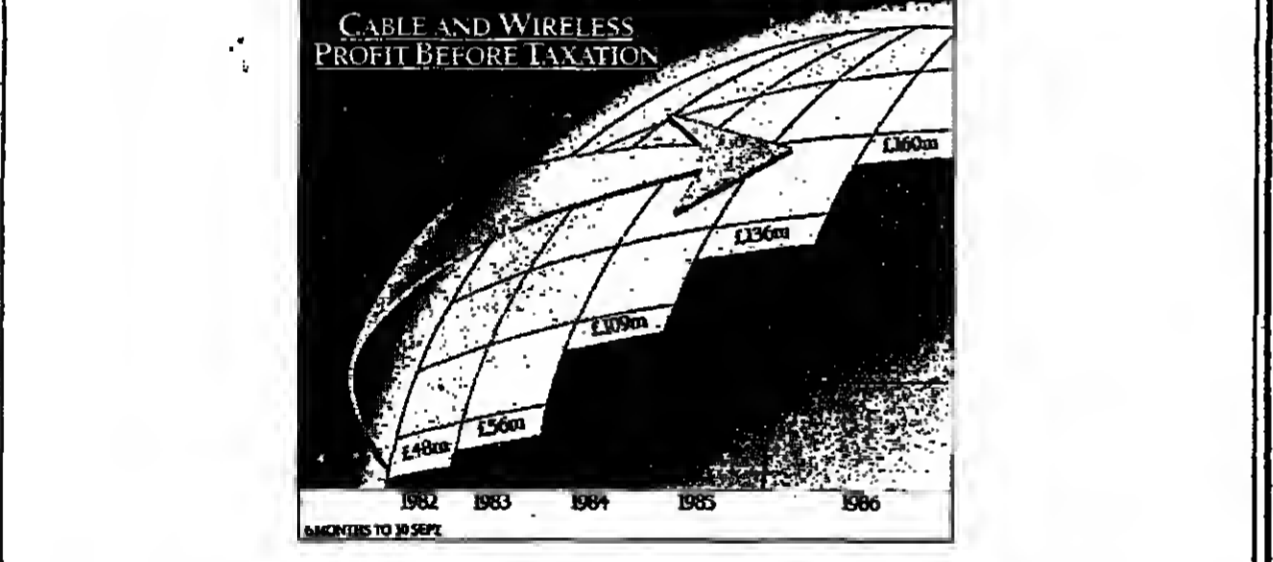
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POINTING THE WAY TO CONTINUED PROFIT GROWTH.

CABLE AND WIRELESS INTERIM REPORT

Table with columns for 6 months to 30 Sept 1986, 6 months to 30 Sept 1985, and Year to 31 Mar 1986, listing financial metrics like Turnover, Profit before taxation, etc.

Adjusted for Capitalisation Issue

120 years ago, the laying of the first transatlantic cable signalled the birth of Cable and Wireless and established international communications.

Now history is about to repeat itself. Cable and Wireless has taken the first steps in creating a Global Digital Highway which will link the major financial centres of the world including London, New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

The network will become operational by 1990, ready to handle the huge increase in world communications traffic between Europe, the USA, Japan, China and other countries on the Pacific Rim. Forecasts predict that traffic will be worth in excess of 3 billion US\$ a year out of Japan alone.

The first step along the Global Digital Highway has already been taken in the UK. Mercury is now established as the alternative national and

international telecommunications operator. By the end of this year, 30 cities will be linked together to create the largest digital network in Europe, and Mercury will be contributing to Group profits during 1987.

The Directors of Cable and Wireless report the following unaudited results for the six months ended 30 September 1986.

The profit before tax of £160m is an improvement of 18% over the £136m for the equivalent period in 1985. The profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders increased to £96m (1985 - £79m). Earnings per share increased from 8.8 pence to 9.5 pence. The growth of earnings in the currencies in which the business operates remains strong.

Fluctuating exchange rates will always affect the results of overseas activities when they are expressed in sterling. During this six months the average US\$ exchange rate was 1.51 (1985 - 1.29). Had it been unchanged the profit would have been some £20 million higher.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend - increased by 17% - to 2.05 pence per Ordinary Share (1985 - 1.75 pence) on the increased number of shares, following the one for one capitalisation issue. The dividend will be paid on 31 March 1987 to shareholders on the Register on 20 February 1987.

The cost of the interim dividend is £20,822,000 (1985 - £17,774,000).

The Directors are confident of the Group's continuing long-term profitability as Cable and Wireless develops its global strategy.



CABLE AND WIRELESS PLC. MERCURY HOUSE THEOBALDS ROAD LONDON WC1X 6RN

COMPANY NEWS

(78.633). Exceptional items credit 97 (507). Pretax profit 5,552 (6,196).

WARFORD INVESTMENTS: Results for the six months to June 24. Interim dividend 7.5p (7p). Group revenue £1,984,000 (£2,304,997). Revenue before tax £2,060,129 (£2,327,376). Tax £734,741 (£925,429). Dividend payable £132p (14.58p).

UTD SCIENTIFIC: UTD's subsidiary, Avimo, has won a contract, worth more than £17 million, for the supply of the gunner and commander day-night sights for the British Army's new Warrior vehicle.

CELTIC HAVEN: Mr M Sheppard, the chairman, said that management figures indicate that results for the half year to September 30 will be satisfactory.

WEMYS INVESTMENT TRUST: Results for the year to September 30 in £000s. Final dividend 8.0p (14.0p) making 16p (22p). Profit on ordinary activities before tax 816 (819). Tax 271 (299). Profit for the financial year 438 (520). Earnings per share before extraordinary items 24.2p (23.1p), after extraordinary items 20.4p (23.1p). Net asset value 636p (608p).

CONSOLIDATED GOLD LTD: A subsidiary of the GCF, has acquired Bristol Sand and Gravel and Horns Sand and Gravel (1985) for an undisclosed price. Bristol Sand was previously 50 per cent owned by British Dredging with the balance held by individual shareholders of Horns Sand. Bristol Sand operates two marine aggregate wharves, one at Hotwells, Bristol and the other at Dumballs, Bridgwater.

SAVILL GORDON GROUP: Contracts have been completed for the sale of the company's freehold property known as the Vaughan Industrial Estate, Tipton, West Midlands, for £5.8 million to Dupont Property, a wholly owned subsidiary of Williams Holdings.

LONDON TRUST: Results for the six months to September 30 in £000s. Revenue from investments 437 (2,233). Other income 884 (309). Gross revenue 1,343 (2,542). Net revenue before tax 219 (361 loss). Tax 178 (259 loss). Earnings per share 0.17p (0.61p loss). Net asset value per ordinary share 86.4p (81.4p).

BLACKWOOD HODGE (CANADA): Results for the nine months to September 30 in Can\$000s. Turnover 104,148 or £52 million (£8,640). Profit before interest charges 6,379 (4,810). Pretax profit 3,726 (2,162). No tax (nil). Earnings per share 152 cents (88 cents).

SCOTT PAPER: The company has merged its American packaged products division, its Scott Paper international subsidiary and its Scott Nonwovens division, to form a single group, Scott Worldwide.

The new group, with total sales of \$3.2 billion (£2.23 billion) and operations in 19 countries, will manufacture and market Scott's sanitary tissue paper products, non-woven products and soap and dispensing systems.

POLYPIPE: The company's acquisitions of Paragon Plastics and Procell Plastics have been completed.

LONE STAR INDUSTRIES: The board has declared a fourth quarter dividend of \$0.475 (£0.333) per common share, payable December 21.

More company news is on page 29

Table titled 'BASE LENDING RATES' listing rates for various banks and institutions.

Table titled 'BASE LENDING RATES' listing rates for various banks and institutions.

ABN 11.00%
Adam & Company 11.00%
BCCI 11.00%
Citibank Savings 12.45%
Consolidated Cabs 11.00%
Co-operative Bank 11.00%
C. Hoare & Co. 11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai 11.00%
Lloyds Bank 11.00%
Nat West Bank 11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland 11.00%
TSB 11.00%
Citibank NA 11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured, mentioning 'Extel Group PLC' and 'Financial & Business Services'.

Clash of cultures as Pilkington faces battle for independence

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

When Pilkington Brothers came to the stock market in 1970 after 150 years as a private family-owned company, the late Lord Pilkington, its blunt bicycling chairman, said it would probably never have been able to take the long-term risk of developing the revolutionary float glass technology with outside shareholders' money if it had been quoted 15 years previously.

The remark says much about Pilkington's long-term attitude to the City. And in a lasting clash of cultures, the City has fully reciprocated the Merseyside industrialist's distrust.

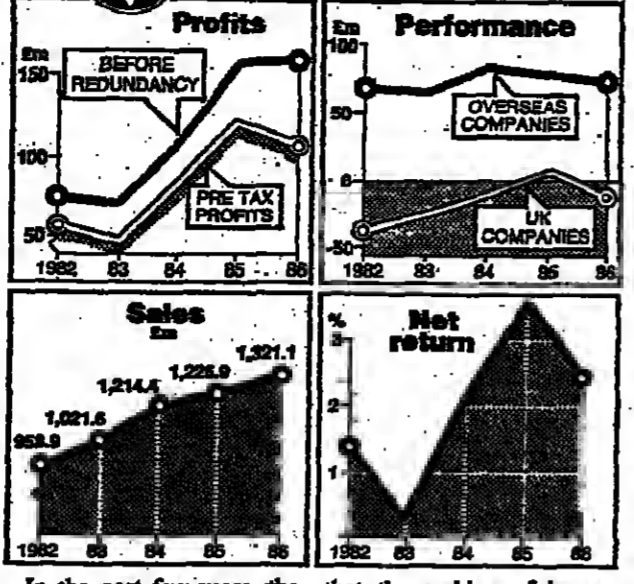
Impatience with the glass company's struggle to recover from deep recession among its two dominant British customers—the construction and motor manufacturing industries—reached a peak after a £105 million rights issue two years ago was not instantly used to make a single big acquisition.

Mr Antony Pilkington, the present chairman and the fifth generation of the family to head the company, has worked hard to improve the group's City image, but the Stock Exchange has long speculated in Pilkington shares in the hope of a takeover bid rather than backing the long-term progress it is now beginning to show.

Profits boost from sharper financial management

and new types of glass for construction which minimizes heat transfers. In the words of Sir Robin Nicholson, who moved from being chief scientific adviser at Downing Street to head the advanced technology division, Pilkington has demonstrated that it knows how to maximize the commercial advantage of innovation.

PILKINGTON



In the past few years, the workforce at St Helens has been slashed from more than 17,000 to less than 7,000, posing Pilkingtons into different kinds of social responsibility.

Emphasis on marketing and added value

Even before redundancy payments, which Pilkington characteristically accounted in a conservative way, the British business made several years of losses and still records only a modest profit. The overall after-tax return on shareholders' funds remains poor, although the 2.4 per cent recorded for 1985-86 is taken after one-off restructuring costs and the company's conservative method of depreciating its assets at their replacement cost.

its landed it with a heavy tax charge, despite losses or small profits at home, leaving it with an estimated £100 million of untapped British tax allowances—which BTR or another bidder with plenty of British profits could put to use.

Mr Pilkington has set about sharpening the company up in ways remarkably reminiscent of the actions taken by Sir John Harvey-Jones at ICI. The board has been cut in size. Individual divisions, previously allocated around the boardroom, have been put under the control of relatively young chief executives.

The lack of sharp financial management can also be seen in Pilkington's tangled tax affairs. Healthy overseas prof-

Reshaping corporate Britain resumes

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Mergers and acquisitions are much too important to be stayed by a sensitive issue like insider dealing or the sudden death of arbitrageurs. Important for the investment banks whose profits now depend crucially on corporate finance business, important for ambitious companies whose growth path is through taking over other companies which they believe they can reshape and reinvigorate to their own advantage.

Yesterday it was the turn of Sir Owen Green, the model acquirer, for whom neither size nor reverence is a barrier to a bid by BTR. It is nonetheless interesting that he confessed yesterday that BTR's tactic of building up a 5 per cent holding secretly through the market had been frustrated by the market's conviction that a bid for Pilkington was coming and the determined rise in Pilkington's share price.

Perhaps a shade unluckily its interim results clashed with both razzmatazz retailer Burton and recovery pharmaceuticals group Beecham. Although comparisons with may not

be flattering to Boots, its results were perfectly respectable and at the top of the range of analysts' expectations. True the pretax profit figure of £97.5 million was fattened by £6.5 million of property profits against £3.4 million last time and also benefited from a £4.7 million reduction in pension contributions, as any prospective predator would have observed.

As expected the pharmaceuticals division in the United States suffered from the ending in May 1985 of the patent on the anti-arthritis drug, Ibuprofen. Profits in America were substantially lower because there are now 16 competitors in the market.

The City is shooting for profits of around £225 million this year, excluding property profits but including pension benefits, compared with £191 million, excluding property, last time. For Boots the strategists and Boots the share, the outcome of the Flint acquisition and the development of Childrens World, are critical.

Money flows credit booms

Whether it is seasonally adjusted or unadjusted, calendar month or banking month, the message remains the same. Money and credit in the economy are growing too fast for comfort.

The eye-catching £3.5 billion rise in bank lending last month, easily the highest ever, should be treated with a little caution. Credit is strong, but not quite that strong. Some of the increase must have reflected lending by the clearing banks to their Big Bang subsidiaries. And the September bank lending figure was an unusually low £0.9 billion.

Even so, and taking the two months together, bank lending up by well over £2 billion a month fits in with the Lawson boom view of the economy. The problem is that it may also mean rising inflation and a deteriorating balance of payments.

The money figures themselves are, as the Bank of England says in its printed health warning, "subject to a greater range of uncertainty than hitherto". The gilt market, which showed a technical recovery yesterday afternoon, appears to have been slightly encouraged by the apparent slow-down in broad money growth from a 3.2 per cent September rise to a 0 to 0.25 per cent increase last month.

No such encouragement should be drawn from the figures. The 12-month increase in sterling M3—18.25 to 18.5 per cent—is still well above the official, but perhaps soon to be dropped, 11 to 15 per cent target range.

Little M0, despite no increase at all last month, was 4.75 to 5 per cent up on its level a year earlier. This is getting closer to the top of the 2 to 6 per cent target range, and Nigel Lawson cited accelerating growth in M0, as well as the weak pound, as reasons for the base rate rise last month. Over the latest three months, according to Credit Suisse First Boston, M0 has grown by an annualized 6.4 per cent.

There is both good and bad news for the gilts market in the latest figures for funding. There was £1.8 billion of net gilt sales last month, bringing the running total so far in the current financial year to £5.2 billion. The authorities have less than £2 billion to get away in the remaining months of 1986-87, having achieved a successful pre-British Gas sales drive.

The good news is that this funding should not trouble the gilts market too much. The bad news is that there will be no more large overfunding to neutralize unruly bank lending in the next few months.

Sean Holly, in the London Business School *Financial Outlook*, says that sterling M3's waywardness can largely be explained by a once-and-for-all adjustment to low inflation. This adjustment is coming to an end, he says, and an 8 to 13 per cent target range for sterling M3 should be set next year.

Charles Goodhart, formerly the Bank's chief monetary adviser, takes a different view. Financial innovation and de-regulation, he argues in the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, means, more than ever, that rigid targets should be replaced by discretion.

Relief over £312m Boesky sale of shares gives equities a lift

By Carol Leonard

Fears that the London stock market could soon find itself awash with millions of pounds' worth of stock from the investment vehicles and portfolios of Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced US arbitrager, subsided yesterday when it was revealed that Mr Boesky had already sold a large chunk.

Last week Mr Boesky's main fund—Ivan F Boesky & Co—sold securities worth \$440 million (£312 million), just a couple of days before he admitted insider trading violations.

Questions are now being raised in Wall Street as to whether Mr Boesky took advantage of information about his own case when selling the shares. But dealers in London were breathing a sigh of relief. "It is good to know that most of the shares to be sold have already gone through the market," said one.

The market used it as an excuse to try to push its Shares in Wight Collins Rutherford Scott, Britain's second biggest advertising agency, slipped 22p to 568p yesterday after James Capel, the broker, placed a line of 230,000 shares at 508p. The company on Tuesday impressed the market with profits of £3.465 million, but City analysts say the stock is over-valued in the short term.

indices higher. By the close the FT-SE 100 index was 6.4 points higher at 1610, while the FT 30-share index closed at 1259.8, just 1.0 up on the day.

The long-awaited BTR bid for Pilkington Brothers, coupled with British &

Charles Barker looking cheap?



150p in May, jumped 20p yesterday to 118p, following a lunch with Sheppards and Chase, the broker. The shares have bounced back from a low of 93p last week which was caused by James Capel, another broker, lowering its profit forecast from £3.6 million to £3.2 million—after a lunch.

But Miss Lorna Tilbian, sector analyst at Sheppards and Chase, said the price fall was overdue. "We have been buyers of the stock. Even at £3.2 million the earnings per share are 9.6p, putting it on a p/e of 9, against an industry average of 14.5. For next year we are forecasting £3.9 million which gives it earnings of 11.4p and a p/e of 8."

Shares in BET, the diversified industrial services group, slipped 8p to 417p, after announcing its interim results. The figures were good but the shares turned downwards as word went round that James Capel had placed a large chunk of the company's shares, representing about 2 per cent of its equity, at 415p.

The shares sold had come from associates of BET who had bought shares on its behalf in HAT Group and Brengreen, both since taken over by BET. The shares in HAT and Brengreen were

ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

1986 High Low Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	Volume	1985 High Low Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	Volume
383 283 Allied-Lyons	305 310	-2	12.6	4.4	141,150	625 403 Hewlett Packard	410 418	+2	21.4	5.2	81,881
174 126 ASDA-MFI	148 150	-	4.5	3.0	182,000	111 734 Imp Chem Ltd	10 10 1/2	-	48.5	4.3	117,827
483 278 BTR	285 285	-	9.5	3.4	293,300	583 335 Jaguar	502 507	-	12.7	2.5	104,346
431 361 BAT	447 452	+5	11.4	4.1	117,000	291 312 Lichfield	285 288	-	25.9	6.7	243,228
572 449 Baxendale	447 452	+5	25.1	6.0	88,100	348 276 Land Securities	326 329	-	14.5	4.4	219,120
840 688 Baxi	725 735	-7	21.7	3.0	155,485	228 133 Legal & Gen	222 227	-	12.3	3.2	29,918
450 365 Beecham	422 427	-5	17.1	4.0	17,700	484 283 Loyds	425 432	+7	25.0	5.3	83,821
726 526 Bina Circle	632 637	+5	30.0	4.7	80,100	229 183 Lovell	228 228	-	17.1	7.2	117,150
383 283 BOC	330 333	-1	14.1	4.2	125,000	291 168 Maria & Spencer	130 136	-	5.3	3.1	224,170
289 170 Boots	221 224	+3	23.4	4.9	101,200	589 417 Midland	590 597	-	37.1	6.7	205,220
638 423 Dr Associates	470 485	+15	4.8	10.1	2,900	635 428 Nat West	490 497	-	27.8	5.8	52,829
709 580 Br Petroleum	695 690	-5	48.6	7.1	75,800	576 428 P & O Dred	498 498	-	25.0	5.0	142,950
280 177 Br Telecom	192 198	+6	10.7	5.5	114,200	248 182 Pressway	184 188	-	7.2	4.5	123,100
183 98 Britoil	159 161	-1	9.8	5.8	43,100	942 718 Prudential	739 735	-	25.9	6.7	224,170
354 258 Burton	282 288	+6	8.8	2.8	182,600	234 148 Royal Elect	184 188	-	4.3	2.5	174,100
389 277 Cable & Wireless	318 322	+4	8.7	5.0	203,400	900 605 Reckitt Colman	795 802	-	23.9	3.0	172,491
198 154 Cadbury Schweppes	172 175	+3	8.4	1.5	217,800	522 345 Reuters	528 533	-	5.4	1.0	402,158
335 257 Cnn Union	256 259	-3	17.4	8.7	4,900	791 811 RTZ	870 877	-	31.4	4.7	83,100
704 409 Cona Goldfields	650 657	+7	35.0	5.4	18,700	367 783 Royal Ind	308 315	-	38.5	4.8	85,840
327 252 Courtauld	314 317	+3	9.5	3.9	187,200	426 344 Salisbury JI	408 412	-	8.4	2.0	29,171
438 318 Dixons Grp	320 334	+14	4.2	1.5	224,100	148 102 Sainsbury	124 128	-	6.0	4.0	182,900
650 448 Fisons	345 350	+5	8.4	1.8	244,100	415 321 Seagroup UK	355 359	+4	17.1	4.8	171,152
254 701 Gai Accident	800 807	+7	34.3	4.3	202,200	970 893 Shell	940 950	+10	51.4	5.4	82,100
226 158 GEC	174 178	+4	8.1	3.5	110,800	168 86 STC	155 159	+2	8.1	1.3	147,785
111 758 Glaxo	895 895	-	20.0	2.2	18,800	772 820 Sun Alliance	620 627	-	27.5	4.4	582,229
482 328 Grand Met	440 445	+5	13.5	3.0	143,379	81 77 TSB PPF	77 77 1/2	-
111 721 GUS 'A'	808 825	+17	12.0	3.0	13,900	420 285 Tesco	278 282	-	8.0	2.3	217,358
622 720 GUS	708 782	+74	42.5	6.8	22.0	329 248 Thorn EM	285 281	-	18.5	6.7	75,701
385 220 GUS	248 251	+3	17.9	7.2	84,280	348 248 Telford House	280 281	+1	7.9	4.7	187,400
325 225 GUS	318 323	+7	10.3	3.2	122,200	239 139 Trusthouse Forte	188 170	-	60.1	3.0	193,145
215 141 Hanson	184 198	+14	5.7	2.9	173,210	204 13 Unilever	19 20	+1	13.8	5.8	124,671

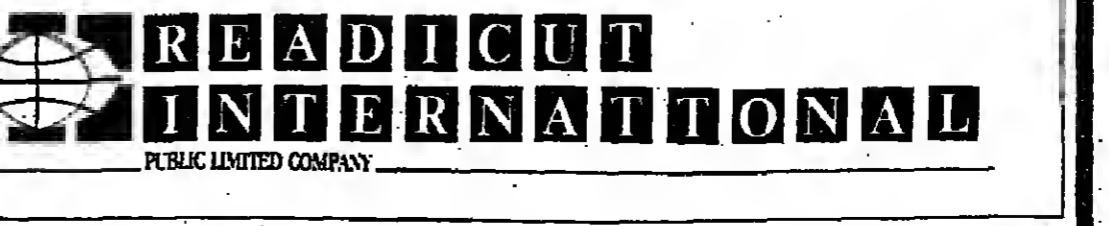
PROFITS UP 77%

Seventh half year of profit progress

INTERIM RESULTS

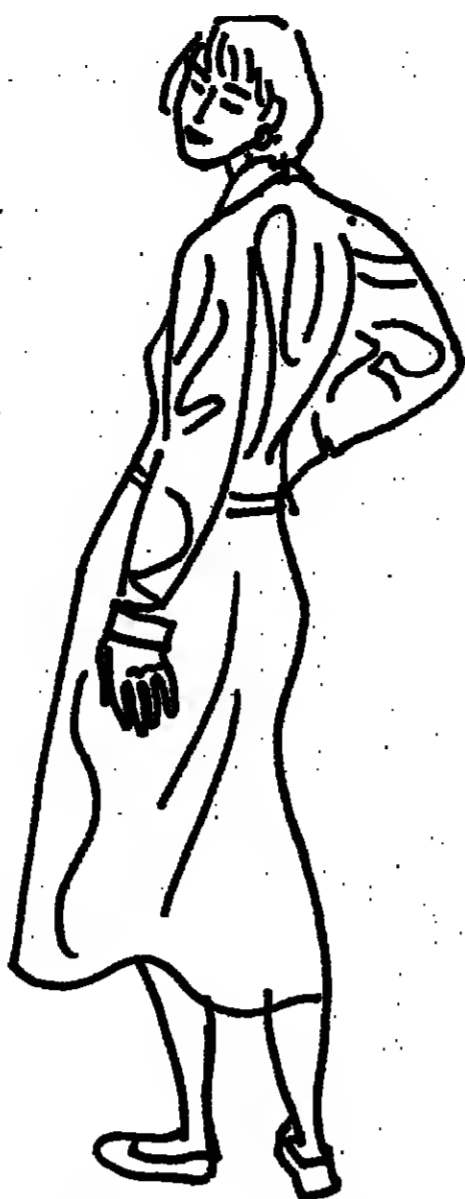
Six months to 30th September

		1986	1985
		£M	£M
*Profit before tax	up 77%	3.0	1.7
*Turnover	up 12%	63.6	57.0
*Earnings per share	up 44%	1.92p	1.33p
*Interim dividend	up 51%	0.25p	0.165p





The Young Market: Dorothy Perkins



The Style Market: Principles



The Teenage Market: Top Shop/Top Man



The Larger Market: Evans

The secret of successful retailing is giving the market what it wants.



The Men's Market: Burton



The Knightsbridge Market: Harvey Nichols



The Family Market: Debenhams



The Stock Market

Once again shareholders get something they like the look of from Burton.

Profits up 85% to £148.7 million. Earnings per share up 22%. Dividend up 29.6% to 5.7p. Group sales up 123% to £1.2 billion. Market share up to 9%. Debt reduced from £261 million to £130 million.

They are excellent figures, but hardly surprising when you recall we've returned record profits for the past six years.

It isn't just our shareholders who have profited. Successful employee achievement has been rewarded, and 24,000 of our staff have participated in performance related incentive schemes that paid £13.1 million.

In fact, all of Britain benefited. Our sales of British made goods were up by more than £150 million last year. We created over a thousand new full time jobs, and of the 1300 young people who

joined Burton through the Youth Training Scheme, 70% now have permanent jobs with us.

So much for 1986. But what are we doing about the coming years? We've literally laid the foundations, adding 75 new shops in 259,000 square feet of space, including the first new look Debenhams, which opened its doors last month to the delighted families of Preston.

We've invested an all time record £112 million in UK retailing, and since July 1986 created a further 1200 jobs under the YTS. Our community programme continues to develop new areas of activity, stimulating enterprise and encouraging new businesses, particularly in the North East.

If you're in the market for an investment with a future, we're sure we've got the very thing you have in mind.

The Burton Group plc.
Successfully Managing Change

TEMPUS

Market looks for the Burton magic touch

Sir Ralph Hatpern is a man with a mission... to make the Burton magic on Debenhams...

Unfortunately, the market does not share his optimism that he can work the Burton magic on Debenhams...

Since taking over Debenhams in August last year, Burton's share price has significantly underperformed the market and the stores sector.

The simple growth story on which Burton's previous rating was based has been complicated by an acquisition which has tripled its size and there is a natural suspicion that Burton may have bitten off more than it can chew.

The market is looking for firm evidence that Burton can turn Debenhams round. Yesterday's excellent figures were a start, but were sufficiently well predicted to have little impact on the shares which were marked up 3p to 26 1/2p.

The growth of specialist retailers in Britain's high streets has eroded the traditional appeal of the department store.

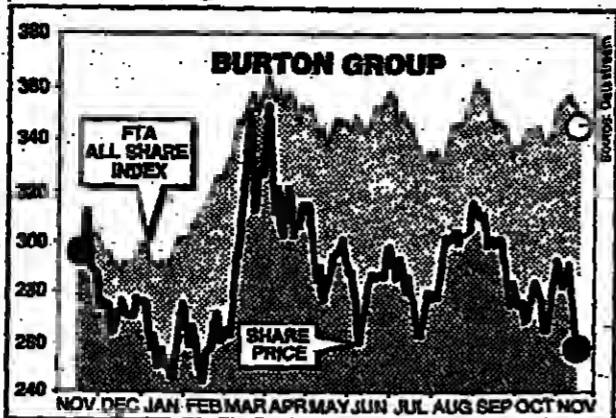
In order to give choice, revamped Debenhams will in future sell a severely edited number of ranges, confined to menswear, womenswear, home fashion and electricals.

Existing stores will be partially revamped, with the primary aim of reducing the amount of space given over to concessions to 30 per cent, compared with 50 per cent at the time of the takeover.

Concession space has come down to 43 per cent, and half a million square feet has been devoted to Burton's own brands.

The market is looking for proof, in the figures and in revamped stores, that Burton's strategies will work. So far so good.

A pretax profit forecast of £185 million in 1986/7 puts Burton's shares on a multiple of 12, a 20 per cent discount to the sector which is surely undeserved.



BET

BET's strategy of cross-fertilization of services... the rationale behind its bid for HAT and Bregreen...

The interim results provided no surprises. Pretax profits were 21 per cent ahead at £59.1 million, despite a £3.3 million adverse currency movement.

The core businesses have undoubtedly potential. Sales of the antibiotic Augmentin are booming while the potential of other prescription drugs such as Emioase, nabumetone and paroxetine is considerable.

At present, Beecham appears wary about launching new products, an attitude no doubt affected by a recent costly failure in the United States. However, it would be detrimental to the business if more attention were paid to the revitalization of old favourites than the development of new ones.

With a virtually clean balance sheet, Beecham could and should move onto the offensive. Pharmaceuticals and OTC medicine businesses in Britain or overseas are prime targets.

For the current year, a profit of £145 million seems achievable - 26 pence of earnings - and puts the shares on a rating of 16.3 times. In the short term, good news will outweigh bad news but sentiment will soon turn against the group if newly found earnings growth is seen not to be sustainable.

Mr Bob Bamman, the new chairman of Beecham, brought in with the brief to reposition its businesses, is treating his charge like a

COMPANY NEWS

STOTHERT & PITT: Figures in £000s for 15 months to September 30 (year to June 30). Turnover: £1,964 (20,200), loss before tax £305 (490), loss after tax £307 (442), loss per share 245.4p (17.3p).

CHECKPOINT EUROPE: Figures in £000s for half year to September 30. Sales: £271 (3,308), pretax profit 469 (217), tax 96 (77), earnings per share 9.3p (3.5). The board does not intend to declare an interim dividend but believes that the positive trend will continue.

THE TIMES VENEER: The company has completed the placing of 54,694,600 ordinary shares of 5p each at 50p per share for a total of 1,200 new ordinary shares to be issued as consideration for the acquisition of A S Royston. A total of 305,400 of these shares are to be retained by the vendors of Royston and the balance of 894,600 have been placed with new investors.

DDT GROUP: Figures in £000s for six months to September 30. Turnover: 3,306 (3,565), pretax profit 353 (377), tax 126 (146), earnings per share before extraordinary items 3.5p (4). The board says that the group will continue to consolidate its existing market position while exploiting new product opportunities as they arise.

SCANTRONIC HOLDINGS: Interim dividend 0.6p (0.5). Figures in £000s for six months to September 30. Turnover 3,789 (1,946), profit before tax 527 (256), tax 184 (142), profit after tax 343 (214), earnings per share 3.15p (2.04). The board says that the group is continuing to achieve record sales, orders and deliveries for all its products.

BRENT CHEMICALS INTERNATIONAL: The company has agreed to acquire through its Dutch subsidiary the business and fixed assets of the packaging inks division of Blandine, a privately-owned French company. The business being bought is primarily in flexographic and gravure inks used in the packaging industry.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

Federative Republic of Brazil

8 1/4% External Bonds Due December 1, 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil, that on December 1, 1986, \$1,320,000 principal amount of its 8 1/4% External Bonds will be redeemed...

Table listing coupon bonds to be redeemed in whole, including columns for serial numbers, principal amounts, and interest rates.

Table listing registered bonds without coupons to be redeemed in whole or in part, including columns for serial numbers, principal amounts, and interest rates.

Bonds so selected for redemption (or in the case of a partial redemption the portion to be redeemed) will become due and payable in United States dollars on December 1, 1986...

DILLON, READ & CO. INC. Principal Paying Agent

Dated: November 3, 1986

HALF YEAR RESULTS

Boots Earnings Up 23%

The results for the period do not include any contribution from the acquisition of Flint. Group profit for the period has benefited by £4.7m following a reduction in UK pension contributions...

Worldwide research expenditure, including that on flosequinam, increased by 20% as planned. New research facilities in the UK came on stream during the first half of the year.

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account for the half year ended 30th September 1986 (unaudited). Table with columns for 1986, 1985, and % Increase.

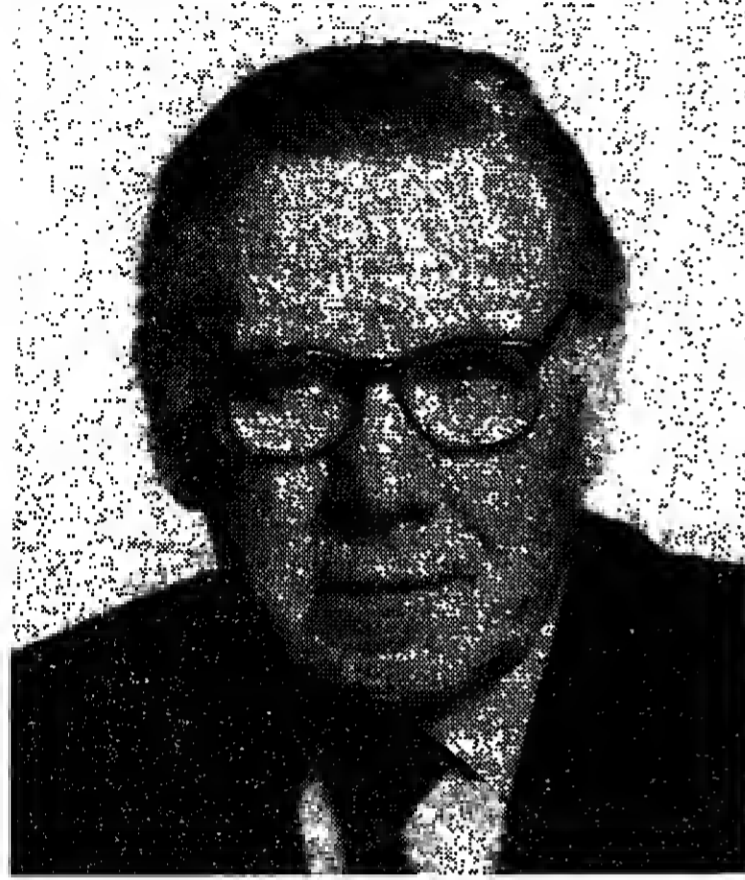
development will not affect our continuing determination to expand and improve our Boots The Chemists representation in the High Street.

THE BOOTS COMPANY PLC

The Boots Company PLC, Nottingham NG2 3AA

British Airways Plc

The Board of British Airways Plc announces pre-tax profits of £141 million for the half year to 30 September 1986.



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

When I reported our results for 1985-86 in May, I said that the fall off in business that British Airways and others in the airline industry and associated travel industries were facing was serious.

Following the incidents in Chernobyl and Libya in April 1986, traffic in terms of passenger numbers and revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) on scheduled services fell substantially. In the quarter to 30 June 1986 the passenger numbers and RPKs were down respectively 5.8 per cent and 11.3 per cent compared with the previous year. The downturn was particularly marked on the North Atlantic routes where the reductions were respectively 19.8 per cent and 19.6 per cent.

We judged that the fall in demand had been irrational. We deliberately decided not to reduce capacity except marginally. Instead, we set about restoring market confidence. The imaginative marketing campaigns "Go For It, America" and "Concorde Challenge" led the way, and, I think, led our competitors. By the end of the period, cumulative North Atlantic passenger numbers were 12.9 per cent down and RPKs were 13.1 per cent down while the corresponding figures across the whole network were only 2.8 per cent and 7 per cent down on the same period in 1985.

In addition to the sales campaigns, cost control was intensified. Many of our staff volunteered for work in the terminals at Heathrow. As a result of these efforts, recruitment was curtailed and staff numbers at 30 September 1986 were about the same as a year ago.

Turnover for the half year ended 30 September 1986 amounted to £1,696 million, against £1,743 million, for the same period last year. Profit before tax for the period amounted to £141 million against £201 million for the comparable half year.

After taking account of reduced fuel prices, from which the airline has benefited significantly, the airline operating surplus in the quarter to 30 June 1986 was £38 million, against £90 million in the comparable quarter a year ago. With the recovery in traffic in the second quar-

	Six months ended 30 September		*Year ended
	1986 £m	1985 £m	31 March 1986 Restated £m
Turnover			
Airline	1,559	1,640	2,981
Other	137	103	168
	1,696	1,743	3,149
Airline operating surplus			
First quarter	38	90	
Second quarter	113	115	
	151	205	205
Operating profit/(loss) on other activities			
Continuing	1	2	(4)
Discontinued (Note 1)	(1)	(1)	(3)
Other income	7	16	36
	158	222	234
Interest payable	(17)	(28)	(47)
Currency profits/(losses)	-	7	8
	141	201	195
Taxation (Note 2)	(4)	(1)	(2)
	137	200	193
Extraordinary item (Note 1)	4	-	(12)
Transfer to reserves	£141m	£200m	£181m

NOTE 1 Other activities discontinued relates to British Airways Helicopters Limited (BAHL) which was sold prior to 30 September 1986. The extraordinary item for this period relates to the disposal of BAHL together with another minor subsidiary. A provision of £12 million was made against the investment in BAHL in 1985-86. This has now been restated as an extraordinary item.

NOTE 2 The taxation charge relates to UK taxation of subsidiaries and overseas tax. No provision is required for UK Corporation Tax in British Airways Plc because of the availability of losses brought forward. On present estimates no provision is likely to be required until the next financial year.

*Comparative figures for the year to 31 March 1986 have been extracted from the audited accounts of British Airways Plc and its subsidiaries adjusted as indicated in Note 1 above. The auditors issued an unqualified report on the above-mentioned accounts, copies of which have been delivered to the Secretary of State for Transport and filed with the Registrar of Companies.

ter, the surplus in that quarter was little different from the level achieved a year ago, reduced fuel prices again having had a significant effect. In the half year to 30 September 1985 there were £24 million of foreign exchange losses on the settlement of overseas receivables less payables, most of which arose in the second quarter. These have not recurred in the current half year.

In the quarter to 30 June 1986, there were some reductions in passenger numbers and RPKs on many of our other routes, but these were less than for the North Atlantic and there was some recovery in the second quarter. The South African business has been adversely affected by conditions there. Domestic business in the UK improved, with Super Shuttle services producing good results. The Japanese business benefited from the strength of the yen.

Since 12 April 1986 all British Airways' intercontinental services, together with those to Amsterdam and Paris, have operated at the new Terminal 4 at Heathrow. The transfer took place during the night of 11-12 April and was accomplished satisfactorily. Terminal 4 has established new standards in customer service.

In September 1986 British Airways Helicopters was sold at a loss for which provision had been made in 1984-85 and 1985-86. The Directors believe that this was in the best interests of British Airways in view of the depressed state of the North Sea oil and gas market.

During the half year to 30 September 1986, the balance sheet has been strengthened by the further addition to reserves and further loan repayments. The debt:equity ratio at 30 September 1986 is 36:64 compared with 44:56 at 31 March 1986 and our debt at 30 September 1986 had fallen to £353 million.

In October British Airways placed orders for 16 of the Boeing 747-400 series aircraft equipped with Rolls-Royce RB211 engines, with options on a further 12. The replacement of the Boeing 747-100s with the new Boeing 747-400 series, for delivery starting in spring 1989, complements the modernisation of the shorthaul fleet. British Airways has also entered into contracts with a banking syndicate under which these aircraft will be made available, at British Airways' option, on an operating lease basis.

Over the last three months we have also reorganised our marketing organisation into a world sales and customer service structure to make us even more responsive to the market place in every part of the world.

Competition remains strong and the European Community is no exception. We welcome the action being taken by the Government and the European Commission to reduce barriers to competition so as to open up the Community market to greater opportunities for British Airways.

The events that occurred in the first quarter were unprecedented: there was a decline in airline operating surplus of £52 million over the corresponding period last year, whilst the second quarter was comparable with the corresponding quarter a year ago. That was the scale of the recovery in our fortunes and the response of the airline's staff and the scale of the British Airways worldwide route network confirms the Board's confidence in our future prospects.

LORD KING OF WARTNABY
17 November 1986

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Britain's highest flying company.

10/21/86 150

APPOINTMENTS

Shandwick Communications Mr Alan Mole becomes chairman, and Mr Basil Towers managing director. Miss Claudia Oliver becomes a director.

Herbert Cottrell: Mr S A Greaves becomes a director. Mr Alan Bernard Andley is a non-executive director.

Warburg & Co. Mr S A Zimmern has been appointed joint chairman, Mercury Warburg Investment Management.

MONEY MARKET AND GOLD

Table with columns for Bond Rates, Discount/Market Rates, Treasury Bills, Prime Bank Bills, and Euro Money Deposits.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns for First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, and For Settlement.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for Three Month Sterling, Three Month Euro, and Three Month US Dollar.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns for Sterling Index, Other Sterling Rates, and Dollar Spot Rates.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with columns for Market rates, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for EQUITIES, RIGHTS ISSUES, and LONDON TRADED OPTIONS.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table with columns for Series, Call, Put, and various dates for different financial instruments.

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORIZED DEALERS. FIRST FOR JAGUAR IN BARNET BARNONE. There is no-one offering more in N.W. London.

HADLEY GREEN GARAGE. REIGATE JAGUAR (07372) 41100. Pre-owned Jaguar/Daimler. New cars - Service - Parts.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER. SOLIHULL 021 745 5566. 2000 cc 1600 cc 1200 cc. 2000 cc 1600 cc 1200 cc.

COMPANY CHAIRMAN. Jaguar XJS V12 coupe, Rover SD1, Lotus Evija, etc.

NEW Jaguar Sovereign 3.6. October 1986. Delivery please only. 228,000 secure.

XJS V12. May 1986 (C). Steel body metallic with sapphire interior.

NEW JAGUAR XJS 3.6. 2000 cc 1600 cc 1200 cc. 2000 cc 1600 cc 1200 cc.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED. SAAB. SAAB 900 3 door, 1984 (C).

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY AUTHORIZED DEALERS. ARNETT OF BOURNEMOUTH. 0202 874152 (W/E) 0202 570575 (Office).

SILVER SHADOW II. 1979 Carfax, Reg. Heds. New Reg. No. 35,000 mls. FSH. 32,000 mls. Reg. No. 103.

GERALD CAPPS. 1964 Cloud III. Must be one of the finest cars left in the country.

ROLLS-ROYCE CORNICHE SALOON. Gold metallic. Approx 30,000 miles. Excellent condition.

SILVER SPUR. 1986 (C). February, one owner. Dark oak with leather interior.

10 RRR. On shadow Mark II in excellent condition. Registered 1979, full history.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED. SILVER SHADOW 1976. Walnut interior with sapphire leather.

SILVER SHADOW 1976. Walnut interior with sapphire leather. 2000 cc 1600 cc 1200 cc.

MOTORS LEASING

WHO ARE CARFLOW? We have been established since 1969 and are a very experienced company.

Carflow. A SPECIALIST VEHICLE SERVICE TO FLEET OPERATORS. Release the capital tied up in motor vehicles.

THE NEW JAGUAR. Available on contract hire/leasing with or without insurance.

NEW VOLVO ESTATES. For less than £20,000, for special leasing arrangements.

280 SL. 1,000 MILES ONLY. One owner. Smoother than butter.

230 TE. 1985, August 85, C Reg. 17,000 miles. Electric windows.

280 SL. One careful lady owner. Spotless condition. A very nice car.

LOTUS EXCEL III. 1985. Red with 1/2 gold hide. PAS. Electric windows.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or a small advertisement.

Designing the home with you in mind

Britain needs to build 200,000 new homes a year until the end of the century to meet demand. The National House-Building Council, celebrating its 50th anniversary, is putting the emphasis on construction quality

Housing is a matter of great interest for most people. They either have a home or want one. But increasingly in the past year or two housing is becoming big news as well. The Thatcher Government set out to increase home ownership, and has done so, largely through its right-to-buy legislation enabling council tenants to cross the divide to ownership.

Since 1979, home ownership has increased by about two million households, half of which is attributable to council house sales, and now stands at 62 per cent, with 64 per cent in England.

That has given housing a high profile, but there is nothing like the involvement of the Royal Family to boost it still further. The Duke of Edinburgh headed an inquiry into British housing last year and its controversial conclusions included the need for a new financial structure involving the phasing out of mortgage tax relief.

Such a suggestion was swiftly dismissed by Mrs Thatcher, but the seed was sown, and Prince Philip, writing recently in *The Times*, expressed the belief that his committee's proposals were gradually gaining acceptance.

Then, of course, Prince Charles stepped into the arena at the National House-Building Council's conference in London last month.

Eschewing pleasantries in a prepared text which had him

saying, "I have to declare an interest. In fact several. I live in a house. In fact several", he launched into an attack on house-builders for concentrating on greenfield sites rather than building in the inner cities.

It was an accusation that led Lord Northfield, head of Consortium Developments, which is trying to build several new towns, to claim that the Prince had been hijacked by the Loony Green Brigade. Prince Charles's comments were immediately refuted by the House-Builders Federation, but they remain on the record.

The latest figures for house-building give a more optimistic view.

The industry has the highest rate of starts for past 12 years

In the first nine months of this year there were 149,500 private housing starts in Britain, 15 per cent up on the third quarter of last year and 14 per cent up on the first nine months of 1985. It shows that the NHBC's 1986 forecast of 150,000 starts will be far exceeded.

Basil Bean, NHBC director-general, said the situation for the house-building industry was very healthy, with the highest rate of starts for the past 12 years. But he added: "How long this situation will continue will depend on the availability of land for private housing and whether or not interest rates remain at the present level."

One of the most dramatic increases in starts is in Greater London, where the figure for the third quarter is up 55 per cent on the corresponding period last year. This goes to emphasize the regional differences, because in

Merseyside and the West Midlands the figures are down by 28 per cent and 33 per cent respectively.

The NHBC statistics show that completions for the third quarter in England and Wales were 50,400, 15 per cent higher than for the third quarter last year, and 1986 completions so far at 131,900, are 10 per cent up on the first nine months of 1985.

Home ownership continues its upward climb, but there are signs that it is reaching the top. John Patten, the Housing Minister, believes it can reach 70 per cent. Mrs Thatcher has set her sights on 80 per cent and surveys by the Building Societies Association and others indicate that more than 80 per cent want to own their own homes.

It is estimated that Britain needs about 200,000 new houses built every year to the end of the century to provide for new households and to replace old stock, and with the decline of the public sector, the private sector must provide most.

It has not yet achieved the necessary target, although this year it may be close. Looking ahead, Mr Bean believes that design and construction of houses will change.

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary, the NHBC sees its second half-century widening the need for its services into areas now being opened up, such as building control, the repair of precast concrete (PRC) homes and in achieving new standards of quality control which the Government is looking to introduce throughout British industry.

House-builders have long been lobbying the Government in an effort to persuade it that more land should be released. But there is little hope that this will happen soon, particularly in the Conservative shires with a



A forest of "for sale" signs, but most young people find the cost of their first homes beyond their pocket

general election almost within sight.

Despite what Prince Charles said, they are building in the inner cities as much as possible. As they point out: "if there is land available to build on and we can build houses that people want and can afford, we will do so."

To attract people, both in the cities and outside, more attention than ever is being paid to design, to make sure that every section of the market gets what it wants.

First-time buyers, retired people, single people - there is an increasing market here both for young singles and divorcees - all have their different requirements, and architects and designers have

to combine with the builders to ensure that the product is right.

The other main development in attempting to bring more people into home ownership is in private-sector financing of joint schemes, with the building societies in the forefront as their powers are set to expand from January 1.

They can help, particularly in the inner cities, and they are already involved in one initiative which has achieved reasonable success: shared ownership.

This scheme, in which the buyer has part of his or her house on mortgage and pays rent for the remainder, enables him to take the first step

on the ladder, after which he can continue the climb, transferring more of the rented part to a mortgage until, it is hoped, he owns it completely.

The equation still has to balance for both the buyer and for the building society, and the question of who - government, directly or indirectly, or building society - picks up the bill for the subsidized rented part has not yet been resolved.

It is an area which shows that the builder cannot alone solve Britain's housing problems. The Government and the financial institutions must help.

Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent



Stepping into the arena: Prince Charles with Basil Bean, the NHBC director general

Better security to beat the burglars

Security in the home has become one of the major issues in today's housing market, as burglaries soar and the combined forces of the police, courts, penalties and threat of imprisonment seem unable to contain the losses - and personal worry - such crimes entail.

Douglas Hard, the Home Secretary, reported to the NHBC's 50th anniversary conference last month that in 1985 there were about 450,000 residential burglaries, representing 13 per cent of all recorded crime. The actual number is almost certainly higher. An analysis of the British Crime Survey, which collected data on unreported as well as reported crime, suggested that in 1983 there were more than 900,000 residential burglaries, a rate of 49 per 1,000 households.

But the survey also found that in the same year as many as 200,000 attempted burglaries failed because of the security measures adopted by householders.

It is to combat these statistics that the NHBC set up a working party under the chairmanship of Graham Pye, chairman and managing director of the Pye Group of Companies and immediate past president of the House-Builders Federation.

New builders are nothing if not pragmatists, so the Pye report is the result of practical and realistic measures which can be taken, with one eye firmly on what the customer wants and has the willingness to pay for.

Apart from better layouts of estates to ensure that neighbours can overlook communal areas, the main recommendations dealt with making forced entry to homes more difficult.

Front doors and windows at ground-floor level are the burglar's first target. Front doors provide 24 per cent with the means of entry, back doors 17 per cent. Forcing doors, insecure doors, and breaking the glass in doors provide access in 38 per cent of cases.

Improved standards of door, bigger rebates to the frame, toughened glass and deadlock latches are recommended, as well as door chains, viewers and extra bolts.

"Trickle" ventilators are recommended for windows, rather than fanlights, which are popular for ventilation. Forcing, breaking, and insecure windows amount to 45 per cent of break-ins.

The cost of these extra security measures is not large, about £200 for the average home. The Pye guidance note indicates that this is made up as follows: front door £45, rear door £24, patio door £29, and ground-floor windows £102.

In future, house-builders' action on security should ensure that an Englishman's home will be his fortress, in all but appearance. Meanwhile the Department of the Environment is working on "best practice" handbooks to improve local authority estates as well.

Charles Knevitt
Architecture Correspondent

NHBC



years service to the British Home-Buyer

10/21/86

Many more retirement homes are being built for the affluent over-55s. Prices are high, but so are standards

It is estimated that one in 10 of all private housing starts is now designed, built and sold exclusively to retired people, representing an amazing growth in a sector identified only during the past few years and which up to three years ago had seen only about 2,500 purpose-built units completed.

The estimate comes from research by Dr Malcolm Parry and Dr Stephen Baker from the University of Surrey, who in 1983 suggested that the market for retirement homes was between 250,000 and 400,000 and that 20,000 units must be built each year to satisfy the demand.

That target has not yet been reached, but the demand is certainly there, and the latest indications are that builders are trying their best to satisfy it.

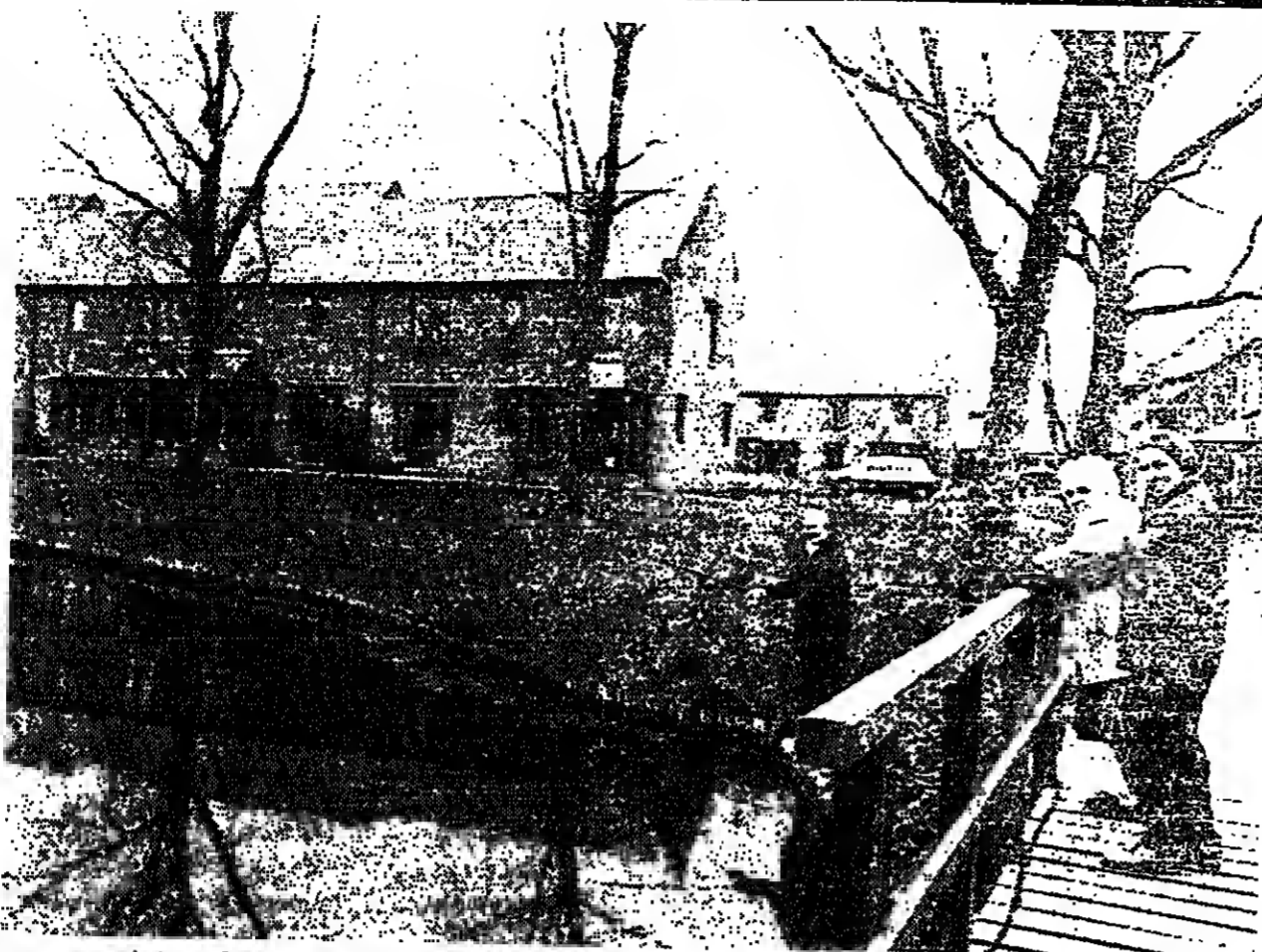
There is, after all, a large proportion of Britain's wealth locked up by the over-55s who in many cases are living in houses too big for their needs now that they are "empty nesters" - their children having left home.

As with any new market, errors were made, some simple such as in design, where insufficient thought was given to the needs of older people.

Increasing awareness and expertise, and the involvement of building organizations which have laid down guide-lines, have eliminated many of these faults, but now the market is growing it is having to tackle new challenges.

The early retirement houses and flats were almost entirely for the active retired, from the age of 55 and, while need for these continues, there is increasingly a requirement for more sheltered accommodation for the older and less active.

A joint working party of the House-Builders Federation and the National Housing and



Autumn days by the trout lake: retired folk at Beechcroft's scheme at Bearwater, Hungerford

The 'empty-nesters'

Town Planning Council monitoring the market says purchasers do not wish to buy a standard product. Their requirements range from basic design modifications and an alarm system discreetly designed into a bungalow or flat, to high level care including a warden, communal facilities, and comprehensive services.

It believes the key element in the success of housing for the elderly is a close integration of plans for the management of a development and its design, and believes that in most cases housebuilders should leave the management to existing management firms.

A new edition of *A Buyer's Guide To Sheltered Housing*, published by Age Concern and the NHTPC last week sets out advice for purchasers. While welcoming the expansion of sheltered housing, David Hobman, director of Age Concern England, expressed concern about reports of various problems such as excessive increases in service charges,

dissatisfaction with the warden, and resale restrictions.

Prices are indeed high, partly because of the need to site retirement homes in good locations - on level ground, near shops and other amenities - which has put a premium on suitable land.

The leading developer in the field, McCarthy and Stone, has recognized the need to cater for people as they grow older and now provides not only traditional sheltered homes, but also intermediate care, which includes a range of extra services including cleaning and the provision of meals in addition to the warden assistance.

McCarthy and Stone has set up a new division, Homelife Care, with the intention of developing six nursing care schemes a year, and the Lifecare Group provides a progression of developments to help owners as they grow older.

Anglia Secure Homes, based mainly in Essex and East Anglia, has plans for

intermediate care developments, having started as a builder of normal retirement homes, to allow customers to move on within the same firm.

Another example is Markfield Court, Markfield Village, Leicestershire, being built by Pinewood Homes, which is claimed to be the first development of its kind in Britain - a complete retirement village, set away from town or city life in the countryside eight miles from Leicester.

Designed for the over 55s, it has one- and two-bedroom bungalows and flats, carefully designed and with a 24-hour alarm system, and also a nursing and residential home with full medical facilities.

The development will also include shopping facilities and a leisure club, and prices for the homes range from £26,000 to £40,000 through Spencers New Homes of Leicester.

Demand for retirement homes is strong at all levels of the market. Beechcroft's

delightful scheme at Bearwater, Hungerford, recently completed, is set in five acres with a trout lake and a few minutes walk from the town centre.

Of 35 cottages and flats, prices from £65,000 to £90,000, only three flats at around £70,000 remain for sale through Knight Frank and Rutley's Hungerford office.

One of the leading firms at the top end of the market, The English Courtyard Association, has completed seven developments, and another two are being built. They include The Vinery at Torquay, Devon, the company's first apartment block.

So far, its schemes have been designed as traditional courtyards on the lines of Oxford quadrangles. But The Vinery, near the harbour, will have 30 apartments, mostly with two bedrooms, costing £70,000 to £90,000, and three-bedroom and penthouse apartments.

CW

More builders are joining the NHBC's warranty scheme

How £100 million was paid to unhappy clients

Builders' mistakes account for some of the biggest negligence claims going through the courts now. But despite an abundance of horror tales about cowboy builders, buyers of new houses now have considerable legal protection against errors or shoddy work.

The National House-Building Council, this year celebrating 50 years of service to the British home-buyer, acts as a consumer watchdog in the private house-building industry.

It is an independent, non-profit-making body approved under statute, whose council members are nominated by the building societies, building employers' associations, consumer groups and the professions.

It sets minimum standards of construction, inspecting homes as they are built and by offering a 10-year warranty to protect buyers against loss.

This is done by means of a levy on the builder. The number of builders on the NHBC national register has steadily increased and now just under 25,000, or 99 per cent, are members.

Since the 10-year warranty scheme was launched in 1965, compensation of more than £100 million has been paid to more than 30,000 home-buyers.

Claims last year totalled £10 million, which is higher than the council would like; but most of the payments related to homes built in the 1970s and standards have since been raised. The biggest number (a total £2.5 million) relate to subsidence and heave of foundations; but the council points out that these date back 10 years.

Builders who want to build on sites where ground might be unstable must have an engineer design foundations specifically for that site.

The second biggest category of claims concerned flat roofs (£2.4 million); then super-structure, including brickwork and render failure and sulphate attack (excluding roofs and floors.)

Under the warranty, builders are directly responsible for defects which come to light in the first two years, with the

exception of central-heating boilers and electrical installations with moving parts, which are covered only for a year. The house-buyer has to deal with the builder direct. If he fails to act, the council will offer conciliation and arbitration, backing the buyer in getting the defect remedied. Builders who fail to take action face being struck off the register. Last year 39 firms faced that penalty, almost half for failing to remedy defects, another quarter for failing to honour arbitration.

For defects coming to light between three and 10 years after the house is built, the council itself takes liability for all major damage caused by failure to comply with minimum building requirements; in the structure or caused by subsidence or heave, up to a limit of £114,000.

Home-buyers are also provided with a Home Owners Handbook and Information Card which gives details of the construction of their particular house, such as the location of stop cocks and main fuses.

Until recently the protection was confined to buyers of new

those provided by local authorities.

The council has taken the task on because a high proportion of the worst defects in homes in the last 20 years have been caused by clear breaches of building regulations: which were averaging six in every dwelling.

Most of the largest builders have indicated they will use the NHBC's Building Control Services, the company set up to take on the inspection.

It will inspect site layout plans, meet builders on site to discuss any problems and help them comply with building regulations.

For buyers of homes where builders have used the council's own inspection services, there is a wider insurance cover so that - for example - breaches of the drains and fire regulations are insured for the first time.

Faults are still being found with new-house construction; but many of the most frequent ones have been eradicated.

Foundations may still be a problem, but the council found that many claims arose from the removal or planting of trees on shrinkable clay soils.

It therefore researched the moisture demand of trees and has now issued new guidance to builders on foundations depths for clay sites where there are or have been trees.

Similarly with roof insulation. Many people suffered frozen water tanks and pipes in roof spaces last winter. Roof spaces in new homes are now well-insulated and if placed under the pipework and water tank, these are no longer warmed by the heat of the house.

The NHBC then brought in a new standard ensuring insulation went over the top of pipes and tanks to avoid frost damage.

In time the council may be able to expand its warranty protection beyond flat conversions to all building work done on existing homes.

Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

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The big race to build it yourself

While the war of words between the Government, its policies and the house-building industry, searching for greenfield development sites rages on, a much more significant aspect of the housing market surges ahead virtually unnoticed and unremarked.

Self-builders built more homes in 1985 than either Barratt or Wimpey, traditionally the country's top firms.

The burgeoning movement shows no signs of letting up, and while private sector house-builders are increasing their number of completions this year, self-builders seem likely to hold onto third place in the league.

Building societies now treat self-build as a genuine and respectable part of the market, largely replacing the Housing Corporation as a source of finance. Their role is likely to expand considerably as a result of the Building Societies Act 1986, which comes into effect on January 1.

Woolwich Housing Development Department, for example, set up three years ago, spent around £26 million last year on more than 80 new projects ranging from shared-ownership, interest-only improvement loans for the purchase of sheltered accommodation, improvement for sale, low-cost housing and self-build.

Woolwich has four self-build projects on the go and the Halifax is funding 18 to the tune of about £18 million. As public sector investment in new housing continues to be squeezed by the Treasury, the building societies provide the natural alternative source of finance.

More than 50 per cent of gross domestic savings are deposited with them, and their assets increased five-fold between 1974 and 1984 to £103,000 million. Many of their depositors now wish to build their own homes.

Several other financial in-

situations are involved at a smaller scale; the Zenzele self-build housing project in Bristol, visited by the Prince earlier this year, received backing from the National Westminster Bank and the Bristol and West Building Society, in addition to the Housing Corporation and Department of Health and Social Security.

Similarly, the Colquhoun Street, Stirling, scheme, was funded with mortgages from the Abbey National and Scottish Building Societies.

But why do people opt for self-build when they have never been offered more choice by the construction industry? The main reason is cost-savings of at least a third, sometimes as much as 50 per cent.

Today it has never been easier to get started, either as an individual or as part of a group. Land and finance are readily available, many architects and building surveyors have gained experience in designing and supervising this type of project, and professional management consultants put the whole package together.

Insurance may be obtained, whether or not a scheme is accepted by the National House Building Council for its 10-year warranty.

Colin Wadsworth, of self-build housing management consultants Wadsworth & Palmer, Bristol, says: "We act as a catalyst, bringing people together, often by placing an advertisement in a local newspaper, and seeing through the scheme from start to finish". His fee is a percentage of the value of the properties built, typically six to seven per cent.

At any one time there are between 150 and 200 schemes underway throughout the country. The price of land varies between about £30,000 per acre in the North, to £200,000 in the South-West and as much as £400,000 in the South-East.

The advantage of using a consultancy are many; they



Inspector at work

The main job satisfaction for Bill Knight, chief area manager with the National House-Building Council, comes from "ensuring that a property has been built that you would like to live in yourself". We were on our way to visit a block of retirement homes in Kent. The builder was registered with the NHBC, which meant the buyer would have a 10-year warranty.

Mr Knight accompanies inspectors occasionally and visits sites on his own to check documentation. On reaching the flats he called at the site office to inspect the site record book, which records an inspector's visits and comments. If something is wrong, a defect sheet is filled in. The site agent has 14 days in which to put the matter right - or Mr Knight sends the file to the regional director, who will ask for a meeting with the builder's managing director. If the response is unsatisfactory, the firm's name can be deleted from the register. If the builder walks off the site and an agreement has been exchanged to buy the house, the NHBC can have it completed and take the builder to court to recover the cost. No defects were found on this particular site.

An inspector has a varied workload and no two days are ever quite the same. NHBC requirements are even more stringent than the building regulations, thus ensuring a high standard of workmanship.

Joan Llewelyn Owens

can negotiate land purchase and the bulk purchase of materials from local suppliers, and tend to know where to find tradesmen who are essential to the success of the project - bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers.

As for the type of people who aspire to self-build, they are likely to be bank clerks, bus drivers or in the building industry themselves. "Morale is very important," says Mr Wadsworth. "There is no benefit to any member of the group packing in before they are finished".

Many groups have clauses in their agreements which can lead to the expulsion of anyone not pulling his - or her - weight. Dedication and perseverance are two key qualities which any self-builder requires.

Mr Wadsworth, an accountant, got into the business the hard way. When he married he couldn't afford to buy a home and decided to build one himself. This year he expects to complete about 700 houses, almost double the number of last year.

Obtaining mortgages has never been a problem, he claims, in the 22 years he has

Getting mortgages never a problem

been acting as a consultant. An architect's or surveyor's certificate is issued on completion of a house to obtain a five-year guarantee against any defective workmanship which is likely to show up during that period.

Another approach to self-build, developed by the architect Walter Segal, who died last year, is currently enjoying a revival. During the 1960s he developed a flexible system using standardized timber elements to build a home for his family of eight in a hurry. Its beauty lies in the simplicity of construction - anyone can build with a modicum of DIY nous - and the fact that it can easily be extended or altered at will.

Mr Segal's former partner, Jon Broome, has now produced a guide to the system with the *Architect's Journal*, making low-cost housing available to many more people. The only aspect of self-build now apparently restraining it from even faster growth in the years ahead is that it still remains a possibility to the relatively few who

Access for the disabled

All of us are disabled at some time in our lives, through temporary injury such as a sprained ankle or broken arm, through illness and even such everyday chores as wheeling a pram through a narrow door or negotiating steps or a steep ramp.

Age takes its toll for many more people than are ever confined to wheelchairs or the use of crutches.

The "disabled" label is easily applied to individuals who want to do ordinary, everyday things: it is estimated that 10 million Britons can be categorized in this way.

The NHBC, with the Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability, has produced a checklist of how to make homes more accessible.

Five ways to improve access for all age groups were identified.

1. Access from the road or garage to the front door of the house which can be negotiated with a child in a pram, a person in a wheelchair or a person using crutches or a walking frame.

2. A safe standing area outside the entrance door big enough to park a pram, or wheelchair or stand and manoeuvre crutches and walking frames.

3. A threshold which can be easily crossed.

4. Enough width in entrance door, entrance hall and corridor to manoeuvre.

5. Downstairs toilet. House-builders have only recently recognized the needs of access and indeed identified

a new market for this type of provision. Barratt has made a special effort in the field since a private dinner on the subject hosted by the Prince of Wales at Kensington Palace.

Costs have been given in the checklist for additional provision, such as a ground-floor

for a toilet and draught lobby (£1,900), a toilet under the stairs leading off a hallway (£870), a room divider (£950) and the incorporation of a toilet between a kitchen and dining room (£900). Plans, sections and detailed constructional drawings illustrate how all these can be achieved.

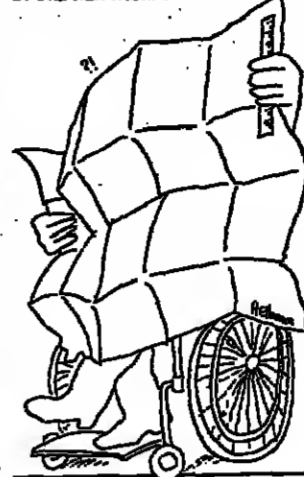
Though builders will be able to carry out such alterations with ease, it always helps if the lay person understands their plans. The Access Committee for England last week published its own DIY guide, equipped with a scale rule so that home-owners and others can interpret the foreign language of construction drawings.

Written by Stephen Thorpe, an architect, and full of useful examples, *Reading Plans* is a natural complement to the NHBC's own checklist (£2.50 from Access Committee for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ).

Both guides are a welcome contribution to increasing understanding of the issues affecting the disabled, access and mobility. But given the marginal increase in the cost of providing special facilities, there is no reason the measures should not be incorporated as standard in all new homes.

READING PLANS

BY STEPHEN THORPE ARCHT



A LAYMAN'S GUIDE TO THE INTERPRETATION OF ARCHITECTS' DRAWINGS

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Motoring by Clifford Webb

Shogun smartens up its challenge

Four-wheel drive in its many variants is so much a part of today's motoring scene that it is almost unbelievable that only seven years ago there were less than 65,000 such vehicles in western Europe...



Mitsubishi Shogun: New low roof-line

The exception was the up-market Range Rover, launched in 1970. The Solihull company insists that 16 years later there is still not a genuine rival.

But it has its shortcomings. The most noticeable is the front-wheeling front hubs, which have to be locked to convert from two- to four-wheel drive.

This does not seem to have deterred many Shogun buyers. Sales have grown from 362 in 1983 to an estimated 2,500 this year.

All the 1987 models have a bigger turbo diesel (up from 2.3 to 2.5 litres), improved seating and a new dashboard and cockpit layout.

Also new is the Shogun Warrior, an £18,000 to £25,000 challenger for the super de luxe Range Rover

Vogue. The cheapest Shogun, the short wheelbase 2.6 petrol, three-door, costs £11,299. The biggest seller, the short and long wheelbase turbo diesels, starting at £14,099, they account for more than 60 per cent of Shogun sales.

I recently drove a selection of the 1987 models on demanding mountain roads on the island of Mallorca. They are impressively quiet

Honda threat to Rover

The first British-produced Honda Ballade is now leaving Austin Rover's plant at Longbridge to sell in direct competition with the Rover 200. Like its predecessor, the Accura, the 200 is based on the Ballade.

The Rover 200 is one of the most sought after models in the Austin Rover range. It is seen as offering a desirable combination of Japanese reliability and British styling.

To reinforce its success it is now introducing additional five-door models with a new roof line.

Also new is the Shogun Warrior, an £18,000 to £25,000 challenger for the super de luxe Range Rover

Mystery of the magnetic waves

I'm beginning to wonder what I uncorked last week in my report on the problems caused by electro-magnetic interference (EMI) and the car makers' reluctance to talk about it.

Mr Ben Garner, of Kenworth, near Dunstable, Bedfordshire, blames EMI for unaccountable engine cut-outs on his 1.8 injected Cavalier CD with electronic engine management.

But as a keen carver Mr Garner has a more serious concern. "My fear is that an engine malfunction while towing will cause the overrun brakes on the trailer to bring the outfit to an immediate and involuntary halt."

Mr Brian Johnson, of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, says that the growing use of complex electronics in cars has coincided with a sharp increase in the sources of EMI, such as car telephones, mobile CB and amateur radio enthusiasts.

The only solution in his view, and one being adopted by the military, is the use of fibre optics.

It would be nice to hear manufacturers' views. In the meantime I should like to hear from any reader who has persuaded a manufacturer to admit that his particular problems are due to EMI.

Honda Ballade: Competition for the Rover 200

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The winning trail begins in the mind

The way to sporting success can involve thinking yourself into the winner's role. The second of two articles in *The Times* by sports psychologist John Syer (above), who has written a new book on the team experience*, explains how instilling personal confidence plays a vital part in training schedules.

Two years ago, at the start of my last season with Tottenham Hotspur, I led a goal-setting exercise in the dressing room of which I asked players to write down the one skill - physical, technical or mental - that they most wanted to improve over the next 10 months.

To my surprise, 60 per cent of the players chose confidence. Most of these players, it seemed, had high goals but had not worked out in enough detail how these goals were to be reached.

Building confidence begins with a realistic assessment of one's own ability. The young athlete may find this difficult and rely heavily on his coach to provide accurate reflection. He will then need help in setting appropriate goals.

Even a player like John McEneaney can make mistakes. He was sure he could return rapidly to his best form after seven months without competition but, when he was beaten in the Paris Open by Sergio Casal and lost his chance of playing in the Masters, he said: "I must set more accessible goals until I'm playing proper tennis again."

Begin by establishing an athlete's goals

Working with any athlete for the first time, I begin with two analytical exercises, the first helping him assess his present ability, the second requiring him to set long and short-term goals. These exercises provide a basis for further work together and are particularly relevant when the athlete lacks confidence.

Once the athlete has set himself goals, I ask him what steps he will take within the next few days towards reaching his most immediate target. Often these "action steps" are not precise enough.

Before one match at Tottenham, I asked Ricky Villa what his objective was and he replied "To win". "Fine," I said, "but how are you going to win?"

"We'll play tight the first 20 minutes and earn the right to play," he said, repeating the instruction of the Tottenham manager, Keith Burkinshaw.

"Okay," I said, "but that's how the team is going to play. What are you going to do? What special is there to do in your position when the team plays tight?"

"I must tackle back more," replied Ricky, naming a part of his game he had wanted to improve.

"Okay. So what's the least number of times I'll see you tackle back in the first 20 minutes? Twice? Five times? Ten times? Tell me and I'll

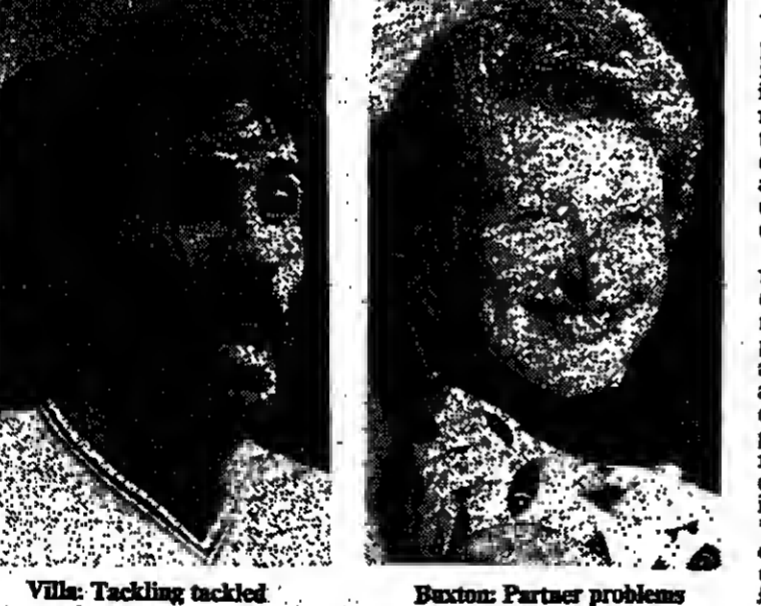


minutes at the next few training sessions." Acting as part of mental training, Martina Navratilova spoke of her coach, Mike Estep, after losing to Steffi Graf in the 1986 German Open: "I get upset because I should have done better. That's not feeling confident. Mike is working on that with me. He is always telling me to act confident and sooner or later it'll come back."

Facing a problem can halt further injuries

An athlete can often regain confidence after a bad injury by inventing and practising a visualisation, in which he rears differently to the original situation and, in this new version, avoids being hurt. With practice, this new version becomes an actual new response. In this way Glenn Hoddle of Tottenham and England, regained confidence in being tackled from behind and Harold Ellis, of Haringey Cricket College, in receiving bouncers.

Even when it is impossible for an athlete to change the factors that disturb him, all is not lost. In this



Villa: Tackling tackled



Buxton: Partner problems

case, he must change his attitude to those events, shifting his attention from something outside his control (his opponent's performance or the weather, for instance) to something that is within his control - his interpretation of events or some factor within his own performance.

"I don't dwell on things I can't control," says Don Schulz, coach to the Miami Dolphins, referring to some bad defeat. "What's past is past. It's gone. It's yesterday."

And Lee Trevino was giving the same advice - focus on what you can do, what you do control - when he said: "I never play a shot of which I'm not sure. Improve weak shots on the practice ground. Consider the art of the possible. The only way you can score is with your game."

Late in the 1984/85 season, when Tottenham were in serious contention for the League title, their challenge was undermined by a series of bad results at home. There was talk at the time of a loss of confidence in playing before a home crowd, yet on closer inspection, the situation was more complex. Some players lacked confidence, some did not, and some lacked confidence in other players in the team, but said they were still confident in their own performance.

In this sort of situation, the coach or manager has a number of strategies he can employ, many of them at a team meeting. The advantage of a team is that it can draw on many individual responses to any situation and through the process of "brainstorming" can discover an original and appropriate plan.

The coach's first task is to get every player involved. He can do this by presenting the topic and asking each player to write down his response. Or he can do it, as we did at Tottenham, by having the initial discussion in small groups (at Tottenham we divided the team into tactical groups: forwards, midfield and defence). This has three advantages: (1) younger, reticent players find it easier to communicate; (2) everyone gets to speak in a much shorter period of time; and (3) an additional measure of confidence is built within each of these small groups which can be drawn upon during a match.

Confidence must be shared in a team

Later, the coach can call the team back into a circle and ask those who are not confident (whether not confident in themselves or not confident in other players in the team) to name one thing that someone else in the team could do to help him feel more confident.

Very often it works out that the person who claims to be confident in himself but not in his colleagues is the person who has the most requests from other players. Eventually, though, it is best to end the discussion with each person having agreed to do one specific thing differently, to help one or more other team members.

In this way, each person leaves the meeting with an enhanced sense of connectedness and commitment - partly because he has expressed what he needs and obtained a promise that that need will be met, and partly because he has agreed to do something which he knows is going to help at least one other team member play better.

SQUASH RACKETS

Left-handers on the right track for record prizes

The InterCity national championships, starting at Eton today with a record £33,270 prize fund, are likely to offer a bumper return for left-handed British players.

There was an excellent south-paw crop in 1984, at Sheffield, when Geoff Williams and Martine Le Moignan won their first national titles, with Bryan Beeson emphasizing the bias as the unexpected, and unseeded, final opponent for Williams.

The balance changed dramatically last year when the championships moved to Perspex court at Temple Meads station, Bristol. Philip Kenyon returned, in the absence of Williams through injury, to win his third national title and Lucy Souther dominated her heat through year, winning in front of a home crowd. Both are back to defend their titles.

Williams has returned to the courts after a torrid year with chronic problems which necessitated repeated surgery. The tall left-hander plays out of Manchester these days but his determined bid for resurgence sees him living a hermit's existence in Gloucestershire, in a caravan parked in the back garden of

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Close call for Eton

Typical of many closely contested school matches this week was Eton's 2-1 win over Bradford.

Eton went ahead after 25 minutes through a goal from Austin Bradford, who qualified just before half-time from a free kick. The Etonians increased the pressure in the second half and after a series of near misses Mandy scored the decider with a shot from 15 yards.

Fagazzari, of Ardingly, scored in the early stages of the match against Winchester. Despite great pressure and a header by Pollard which hit the crossbar, Winchester could not find the equalizer.

BOWLS

Dartford's difficult task

Dartford have a particularly difficult assignment in the fourth round of the McCarthy 800 Stroke indoor club championship.

Both clubs had a first-round bye. Since then, the Cyphers have beaten Old Coulsdon and Croydon, and Dartford have beaten Lewisham and Denagate Ridge. Tomorrow's winners play either Farnham, from Hastings, or Preston, from Brighton, in the last 16 on January 17.

All four of Cyphers' skips - Andy Thomson, Terry Heppell, Gary Smith and Dave Crocker

— have played for England. Thomson was sixth in the Commonwealth Games singles in the summer. The club's reputation as one of the most competitively-minded in the south-east, is well-founded.

North Walsham, the holders, play Wymondham Dell. They met at the same stage last season when North Walsham won by five shots. Stansley, the Durant-based club, and Paddington - both semi-final losers last April - play Cumbria and Bounds Green respectively. In this west, Cotswold, Tony Alcock's Stroud club who beat Clevedon a fortnight ago, hope to continue in the same vein against Northavon, from Bristol.

Queen's Bench

Tribunal broke own rules in dismissing school nurse

Regina v South Glamorgan Health Authority, Ex parte Phillips. Before Mr Justice Russell [Judgment November 20]. A disciplinary tribunal of a health authority which had dismissed a school nurse it employed, having reached its decision on the balance of probabilities, was in breach of its own rules of procedure which expressly provided the tribunal to approach such matters applying the criminal standard of proof, namely proof beyond reasonable doubt.

Consequently the decision to dismiss, which was subsequently varied to a formal written warning and recommendation that the nurse should not be employed by the health authority in a capacity that would bring her into contact with children under 16 years old, was of no effect.

Mr Justice Russell so held in the Queen's Bench Division when he granted a declaration in the applicant's favour in such terms with the effect that the decision of the appeal committee of the South Glamorgan Health Authority made on September 4, 1985, and ratified by letter on October 16, upheld the applicant's complaint against the applicant, that she had been guilty of professional misconduct, could not stand.

Mr Gerard Wright, QC and Mr Malcolm Bishop for the applicant; Mr Adrian Whitfield, QC and Miss Nicola Davies for the health authority.

MR JUSTICE RUSSELL said that the present case was not an exception to the law as laid down in *Ex parte Walsh*, but that it had a public law element, that the applicant was within her rights in counselling the child who was of sufficient age and understanding to be able to appreciate the problems of abortion, and that her dismissal by the health authority was made in the exercise of its rights as a health service at large.

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Law Report November 21 1986

North Sea tax relief denied

Inland Revenue Commissioners v Mobil North Sea Ltd. Before Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Balcombe [Judgment November 19]. For the purposes of petroleum revenue tax, expenditure incurred on the construction of a North Sea oil platform filled into before January 1981, known as "supplement" under section 111(7) of the Finance Act 1981. The relevant expenditure was not within that provision because it had not been incurred "in pursuance of" a contract entered into before January 1, 1981, and thus fell to be disallowed by virtue of section 111(1) of the Act.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Mobil North Sea Ltd from the decision of Mr Justice Harman in the Chancery Division (*The Times* December 9, 1985; [1985] 1 WLR 296).

Mobil North Sea Ltd was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Mobil was involved in oil extraction from the North Sea. In 1972 the British Government granted it a licence to win oil from a specified block that formed a part of the Beryl Field. In 1979 Mobil contracted with Bechtel for the construction of oil extraction installations in that field.

In 1981 Bechtel, acting as Mobil's agent, entered into three separate contracts with other construction companies for the provision of three topside modules for Mobil's installation. By the end of 1982 Mobil had incurred expenditure of some £232.8 million on the completion of the installations.

In respect of the expenditure Mobil claimed entitlement to expenditure supplement at 35 per cent under provisions in the Oil Taxation Act 1975, as amended by section 19 of the Finance (No 2) Act 1979. The claim was refused.

Irrelevant who was unfit diver

Smith v Mellors and Another. Before Lord Justice Croom, Lord Justice Croom and Mr Justice Peter Pain [Judgment November 19]. Where two occupants of a motor vehicle were charged, as participants to a joint enterprise, with the principal offence of driving after consuming excess alcohol, it was unnecessary for the prosecution to establish which drove the vehicle and which aided and abetted the driving, provided that it could be proved that each occupant was guilty either because he was driving or because he aided and abetted the driving.

In such a case, however, it was necessary for the prosecution to establish that both occupants knew or were reckless that the other was unfit to drive.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing an appeal by case stated by the prosecutor, Alan Oliver Smith, against the decision of Chesterfield Justices on February 12, 1986, whereby they dismissed informations against Christopher Alan Mellors and James Soar alleging contraventions of section 61(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981.

Mr Gregory Dickinson for the prosecutor; Mr Michael Dudley for Mellors; Mr Peter Joyce for Soar.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM. JOHNSON said that the justices found that at 3.30am on February 7, 1985, police officers saw a stationary car on a building site to which access could only have been gained by public road.

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The Revenue contended that section 111(1) of the Finance Act 1981 applied to reduce to nil the percentage of costs allowed for deduction as supplement in computing the amount of petro-

leum revenue tax chargeable on oil won. The special commissioners, allowing Mobil's appeal against that refusal, held that section 111(1) did not apply because the expenditure fell within section 111(7) whereby "Subsection (1) shall not disqualify any expenditure... which is incurred before 1 January 1983 in pursuance of a contract entered into before 1 January 1981". The Crown's appeal against the commissioners' decision was upheld by Mr Justice Harman.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, Mr Peter Leaver and Mr Stephen Alcock for Mobil; Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Mr Ian Glick for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the issue was whether Mobil as a participant in the development of Block 9/13A, should have certain expenditure incurred by it brought into account for years ahead and come to assess its liability for petroleum revenue tax.

The expenditure was incurred by Mobil between January 1981 and January 1983. If it was incurred "in pursuance of" a contract entered into before January 1981 it could be brought into account, but not otherwise.

Mobil submitted that it was incurred in pursuance of a contract which it had made with Bechtel in July 1979. Revenue contended that the contract was entered into after January 1981 and thus fell to be disallowed by virtue of section 111(1) of the Act.

Most of the expenditure in issue was incurred in acquiring three topside modules. In pursuance of which contracts were they acquired? The answer was clearly the contract which Bechtel made as Mobil's agent after January 1981.

Bechtel, of course, would not have made those contracts but for its obligations as agent under the 1979 contract. That contract was the reason why the asset-acquiring expenditure was incurred but it was not incurred in pursuance of it.

That conclusion was based on the ordinary meaning of the words "in pursuance of". Had it been necessary to adjudge that "under" was a synonym for "in pursuance of" it should be held that it was.

Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Balcombe delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Knapp-Fishers; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

MR JUSTICE CROOM. JOHNSON said that the justices found that at 3.30am on February 7, 1985, police officers saw a stationary car on a building site to which access could only have been gained by public road.

The car doors were open and the defendants, the only occupants of the car, were seen running from it. They were taken to the police station.

Both had breath/alcohol levels above the prescribed limit. Each said that the other had been driving.

Both were charged with the offence under section 6 as

principals in accordance with section 44 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 on the basis either that Mellor had been driving and Soar had aided and abetted the offence, or vice versa.

The justices acceded to the submission on behalf of the defendants that there was no case to answer because the prosecutor had failed to prove who had been driving.

It was clear that either defendant could be charged as a principal notwithstanding that he was only a passenger, providing that it could be proved that as a passenger he was aiding and abetting the other.

The justices were wrong in saying that the prosecutor had to prove which of the defendants drove and which aided and abetted.

It was open to justices to convict both defendants as principals in respect of an offence under section 6, where the circumstances compelled the court to find that both were equally guilty regardless of who was the driver and who was being driven.

It was correctly submitted for the defendants that the identity of the driver was irrelevant only if the defendants were involved in a joint enterprise and both knew that the other was unfit to drive through drink.

There was no direct evidence of either defendant's state of knowledge of the other's fitness to drive.

The justices were of the opinion that it was unreasonable to infer that both defendants were aware that the other had consumed excess alcohol.

His Lordship was unable to conclude that the justices were not entitled to come to that conclusion on the evidence and in those circumstances the appeal would be dismissed.

Mr Justice Peter Pain delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Derby; R. Anthony Cleaver, Thompson & Co, Alfreton; Rice & Co, Chesterfield.

MR JUSTICE RUSSELL said that the present case was not an exception to the law as laid down in *Ex parte Walsh*, but that it had a public law element, that the applicant was within her rights in counselling the child who was of sufficient age and understanding to be able to appreciate the problems of abortion, and that her dismissal by the health authority was made in the exercise of its rights as a health service at large.

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RACING

Talented Fergy Foster to make long journey pay off in BMW Final

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Fergy Foster, trained by Arthur Stephenson near Bishop Auckland in Co Durham, can justify his long journey south to Newbury today by winning the BMW Series Final Chase.

Premier Charlie and Voice Of Progress, although they finished just in front of him at an earlier meeting. They had run before whereas he had not.

Forella, another who did well on the Flat when the ground was soft, and the easy Sandown winner, Ghostr, are taken to win the two divisions of the Freshman's Novices' Hurdle.

The best bet on the card, though, should be the recent Devoy winner, Conquerer, who is napped to beat Geza An Uisce in the Clansfield Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase.

At Ay, I envisage Geordie Dun landing a double on Last Grain (1.30) and Modtech (3.0) and Phil Tuck perhaps emulating him by winning on Donna Farina (2.0) and Centre Attraction (3.0).



Gold Bearer (right) jumps the last in the Lutetian III Handicap Chase at Kempton yesterday with a clear lead over Classified. But both were overhauled on the run-in by the fast-finishing Castle Warden (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Swimmer relishes his new role Bon crusher to miss cup

Swimmer, a winner on the Flat at Ascot last month, gained an impressive 15-length success on his hurdling debut at Kempton Park yesterday. Despite drifting from 5-4 to 3-1 on the Motorway, Swimmer took up the running approaching the turn for home and only had to be pushed out to beat Road To Kells.

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (12) 0-4322 TIMEFORM (C) (Mrs J Pyle) 8 Hall 6-10-0 R West (4) 88 7-2

3.30 NUTRIPET HANDICAP HURDLE (E4,480; 2m 4f 120yd) (12 runners)

FORM VINO FESTA (1-0) was length winner from Arsenius (10-1) at Sandown (2m 5f 120yd) 22/77.

3.0 JACKY VOICE HANDICAP CHASE (E3,095; 2m 4f) (5 runners)

FORM PREMIER CHARLIE (10-2) finished 4th at 2nd to Malya (10-9) with course specialist VOICE OF PROGRESS (12-2) a further 4th at 3rd and BELGROVE LAD (10-7) second 2nd behind in 4th.

3.30 FRESHMAN'S NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: 3-Y-O; E1,875; 2m 100yd) (13 runners)

FORM GROFAR ran Melendez to 3rd at Devon (2m 11f) and followed up with a (11-0) 1st Sandown victory over Golden Crab (11-0) at Sandown (2m 11f) 22/21, good, Nov 1, 14 ran.

Course specialists

Table with columns: TRAINERS, Runners, Per Cent, JOCKEYS, Hides, Per Cent. Lists names of trainers and jockeys and their success rates.

2.00 RACING BOUT HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,274; 2m 6f) (15 runners)

2.00-41 DAD'S GAMBLE (C) (A Alexander) R Fisher 5-11-11 (40) ... M Meagher 88 7-2

2.30 DRYBIDGE NOVICES CHASE (E1,510; 3m 110yd) (11 runners)

2.30-11 DUTCH LORE (D) (Kingsley) D Smith 5-1-1 ... G Grant 689 F5-4

3.00 BLACKHOUSE NOVICES HURDLE (E894; 2m 4f) (17 runners)

3.00-01 BURNING (D) (Mrs G Postlethwaite) Mrs G Postlethwaite 6-11-2 ... R Elliott 82 6-1

3.30 GULZEAN HANDICAP CHASE (E1,931; 2m 4f) (5 runners)

3.30-02 CENTRE ATTRACTION (B) (Mrs V Mason) G Richards 7-11-11 (44) ... P Tuck 85 5-4

Haydock results

Going good to soft. 1.0 (2m 4f) 1. WIPPER THROAT (M Dwyer) 4-1; 2. Chief Postponer (A Murphy) 4-1; 3. Chief Postponer (A Murphy) 4-1.

2.15 (2m 4f) 1. CRYSTAL SWOON (G Leonard) 11-8; 2. Janny Loozen (M Gherard) 10-1; 3. Janny Loozen (M Gherard) 10-1.

2.45 (2m 4f) 1. AGAINST THE GRAM (D Dwyer) 11-8; 2. Janny Loozen (M Gherard) 10-1; 3. Janny Loozen (M Gherard) 10-1.

3.15 (2m 4f) 1. ASTRAL (D McKewen) 7-2; 2. Captain (D Brown) 20-1; 3. Jannet (D Murphy) 2-1.

3.30 (2m 4f) 1. WITBY BANK (M Gherard) 5-4; 2. Wippen (M Gherard) 5-4; 3. Wippen (M Gherard) 5-4.

3.00 (2m 4f) 1. ACCURACY (K Dwyer) 11-8; 2. Team (L Wye) 10-1; 3. Team (L Wye) 10-1.

Kempton Park

Going good to soft. 1.25 (2m 4f) 1. WHORRY EYES (G Laidlaw) 4-1; 2. Marnet (Meyers) (Penny) 4-1; 3. Marnet (Meyers) (Penny) 4-1.

2.15 RADIO TRENT HANDICAP CHASE (E1,608; 3m) (4)

2.15-01 BARRYVILLE (C) P Burgess 10-11-0 ... M Meagher 88 7-2

12.45 LAKE SELLING HURDLE (E750; 2m) (7 runners)

1.00-0 KAMAROKI (C) S Stone 4-1-0 ... N Carson (7) 82 6-1

1.15 RAINWORTH NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (E1,134; 3m) (12)

4.30-01 FIFTY BUCKS Mrs M Rinald 6-11-7 ... S Meagher 78 14-1

1.45 MERIT THREE-YEAR-OLD HURDLE (E2,624; 2m) (19)

1.121 CURRAT ALI (D) M H Eastery 11-0 ... L Wye 11 11-0

Course specialists

Table with columns: TRAINERS, Runners, Per Cent, JOCKEYS, Hides, Per Cent. Lists names of trainers and jockeys and their success rates.

Stearby to take Hennessy chance

By Michael Seely

Jenny Pitman decided yesterday to try and repeat Burrough Hill Lad's 1985 victory with Stearby in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday.

A decisive winner at Liverpool last season, Stearby performed with credit when runner-up to Celtic Slave on his seasonal reappearance at Chester.

With the big-race excitement mounting, David Nicholson was admitted to being delighted with Charter Party, the top weight. "He's got to go well," said the trainer.

At Haydock yesterday, Fitzgerald made a very good start in the EBF Novices' Hurdle Qualifier.

The day's highlights were Blackhawk Star's hard-earned victory in the HLT Timber Chase and Melendez's 15-length win in the Northern Jumps Hurdle.

The four-mile chase proved to be a dogged battle of attrition between some seasoned veterans before Jayo Kinane drove Blackhawk Star past the post a length in front of Kumbi and Sam Marsh.

Afterwards Rhona Oliver was undecided whether the 12-year-old winner would be sent to Aintree.

"He became so ill after an injection against the virus four years ago that he nearly died," said the trainer's wife.

"Remarkably, only 74 lengths separated the seven runners at the end of the marathon. Lucky Vae finished sixth and Corbiere, the winner of the 1983 National, last.

Mrs Pitman, persisting with her low-key image, commented: "Corbiere ran perfectly satisfactorily." She said, "At long last he's reasonably handicapped. And after giving him a bit of hunting and a few more runs, I'm looking forward to racing him in the National with 10st 5lb."

Ridden for the first time by Jonathan Lower, Melendez was eventually a decisive winner of the three-year-old hurdle from Bantel Busby.

"I thought the boy rode him well," said the Wellington trainer. "That's the first time Peter Scudamore has not been available. If he comes out of this fresh and well we might go to the Cheltenham December meeting for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle Trial."

Both the handicap-burdles resulted in wide-margin victories for useful stayers on the Flat. Witby Bank stormed home by 12 lengths to win the Clansfield Conditional Jockeys' Hurdle for Peter Esterby and Kevin Mooney then rode Accuracy to an eight-length victory over Tern in the concluding Coral Golden Hurdle Qualifier.

NEWBURY

Selections By Mandarin

- 1.00 Forcello. 1.30 CONQUERING (nap). 2.00 Fergy Foster. 2.30 Tenzing. 3.00 Belgrove Lad. 3.30 Ghostr.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.00 FERGY FOSTER (nap).

Going: soft (chase course); heavy (hurdles)

Table with columns: Race Name, Horses, Odds, Jockeys. Lists race details for 1.0 FRESHMAN'S NOVICE HURDLE and 1.30 CLANFIELD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE.

FORM RICHARD (11-0) looked to have plenty of potential when 10th at 2nd to Problem Child (11-5) with RWIS NEPHEW (11-0) 5th behind in 5th, CHATTERSPARK (11-0) and MYSTERY CLOCK (11-0) 11th and 12th.

1.30 CLANFIELD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (E2,305; 3m) (4 runners)

FORM CONQUERING (10-0) was well supported in the market when beating Two Coopers (11-0) on first run at Devon (3m 11f) 17/38, good, Nov 11, 11 ran.

2.0 BMW SERIES FINAL HANDICAP CHASE (E10,423; 3m) (11 runners)

FORM CONQUERING (10-0) was well supported in the market when beating Two Coopers (11-0) on first run at Devon (3m 11f) 17/38, good, Nov 11, 11 ran.

FORM FERGY FOSTER (10-0) is much improved of late and was a comfortable 6th winner over Problem Boy (10-1) at Newcastle last Saturday (2m 4f) 22/75, good, Nov 16, 6 ran.

AYR

Selections By Mandarin

- 1.00 Quay Man. 1.30 Last Grain. 2.00 Donna Farina. 2.30 Dutch Lord. 3.00 Modtech. 3.30 Centre Attraction.

By Michael Seely. 1.00 Quay Man. 1.30 Last Grain. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.30 LAST GRAIN.

Going: good to soft

Table with columns: Race Name, Horses, Odds, Jockeys. Lists race details for 1.00 MOSSELLOW CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE and 1.30 EBF NOVICES HURDLE.

1.00 MOSSELLOW CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (E1,545; 2m) (4 runners)

2.00-122 QUAY MAN (B) (Mrs E Clark) J R Wilson 11-12-6 ... M Bewley 88 7-2

1.30 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier; E1,143; 2m) (15 runners)

1.00-0 BLACK SPUR (J Hope) C Parker 4-11-0 ... B Stoney 88 6-1

Course specialists

Table with columns: TRAINERS, Runners, Per Cent, JOCKEYS, Hides, Per Cent. Lists names of trainers and jockeys and their success rates.

BOXING: CASHING IN ON THE JOE LOUIS SYNDROME

Tyson making the most of his killer instinct

From Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent, Las Vegas

Heavyweight boxing could be starting a journey back to the "good old days" of two-fisted fighters when an unbeaten and little known 20-year-old New Yorker, Mike Tyson, challenges Trevor Berbick, of Canada, for the World Boxing Council title at the Hilton Center here on Saturday.

Modernists believe that the road Tyson is trying to lead them down could be nothing more than a garden path, overgrown at that, and could soon peter out. They call Tyson a boy, even though he is 27, and a contender, 16 of those ending in the first round. Tyson is 5ft 11in tall, has a 45-inch chest, 16-inch biceps, and a 19 1/2-inch neck.

If Tyson's fighting style sees him through the last three of the eight contests in this series to unify the three world titles, he could become as big a phenomenon as Muhammad Ali, who, as Cassius Clay, changed the course of boxing 22 years ago.

Tyson's manager Jim Jacobs, a respected boxing historian, says "Mike has been living boxing since he was 13. He has an incredible sense of boxing history and recognizes his place in it."

One can appreciate Tyson's view when one realizes that for his first contest just 18 months ago he received \$500 and now, 26 hours later, he has \$2 million in the bank.

Mentally and physically, too, he is a different breed to the six-foot plus modern giants who used their size to dictate a comfortable pace. In spite of his early years in the ghettos of the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of New York and a spell in a correctional institute for 11 to 17-year-olds, Tyson is as gentle and sensitive outside the ring as he is mean and violent inside it.

A private person craving seclusion, Tyson is staying with a doctor friend away from it all in Las Vegas. "I don't like hotels. Some of the voices there are very persuasive," he says. Of hype he says: "Why be verbose if I can win?" He is happiest in the company of his 75 pigeons back in the Catskills. "I don't keep them for racing," he says. "I just like to see them fly. I like to see birds fly."

In the ring he is quite unlike his pigeons. He is as violent as his pigeons. He is as violent as where, at the age of 11, he was smugging grown men. He wears black because "I want to look a bad guy". He wears no socks and no robe. He is the hawk. "I love hawks, only they kill my pigeons," he says.

Jacobs says his opponents are terrified of him even though they may not reveal it. "I call it the Joe Louis syndrome," Jacobs says. "Those who got in with Louis froze. Those who got in with Tyson turn into ice cubes."

Tyson is amused by the reaction of his opponents, especially when he recalls that at the age of nine he took a hiding from two girls. "I was trying to interfere with their skipping. They took my shorts and came back," he laughed. Tyson learned his boxing in the Tyson Correctional School where a former professional boxer and social worker, Bob Stewart, put on the gloves and flogged him to show who was the boss. Tyson made good progress after that.

At the age of 14 he was paroled into the care of Gus D'Amato, who had steered Floyd Patterson and José Torres to world titles. When D'Amato died in 1982, Tyson became his legal guardian. Tyson had a good if not distinguished amateur career, winning only one major title, the National Golden Gloves, in 30 bouts. This was possibly because D'Amato did not want him to come too much under the influence of other coaches. He lost five of those contests, and was beaten in the Olympic trials.

His professional progress has been according to the wishes of D'Amato who died in 1985.

CYCLING

A Tour of Britain becomes a reality

By John Wilcockson

British cycling enthusiasts have dreamed for many years that one day they would see the world's top professionals competing in an event like the Tour de France. That dream is now close to fruition, as we learned yesterday over breakfast in Forum and Misons.

The gathering of journalists and sponsors dug into their coffers with extra relish when the London-based promoter, Alan Rushton, announced that Kellogg's is to sponsor the first fully professional Tour of Britain in August. The cereal company is relinquishing its highly successful series of city-centre cycle races - which will go to another sponsor - to invest "substantially more money", perhaps £300,000, into a five-day, 500-mile stage race that is guaranteed same-day coverage by Channel 4 television.

To give the race real credence, no less a personality than the world's No. 1 cyclist, Sean Kelly, was in attendance yesterday. The Irishman was enthusiastic about the format of the new race - long, hilly, stages with spectacular city-centre finishes - and about its dates, August 12 to 16, midway between the Tour de France and the world championships. "It should be ideal preparation for the world championships," Kelly said.

Rushton, the head of the promotions firm Sport for Television, is confident of staging the well-run race. "We are using the same team that has organized the two successful Nissan Classics in Ireland, and the Kellogg's city-centre races for the past four years," he said. His team includes the former professional cyclist, Pat McQuaid and Mick Bennett.

It is planned that 16 professional teams, each of five riders, will contest the event. The route will not be finalized until January, but Rushton hopes that the race will be a true Tour of Britain, starting in Scotland and passing through England and Wales before finishing in London.

"All the towns that have hosted a Kellogg's city-centre race want to be involved with the pro-tour, which will finish in Westminster," Rushton added. It is hoped that a series of long distance, one-day races will also be promoted in 1987, a fact that will encourage more amateurs to join the professional ranks, and, it is hoped, generate greater sponsorship for the growing number of British professional teams.

Final approval of the dates for the Kellogg's Tour will be given in Brussels next week at the annual congress of the sport's governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale.

WEIGHTLIFTING

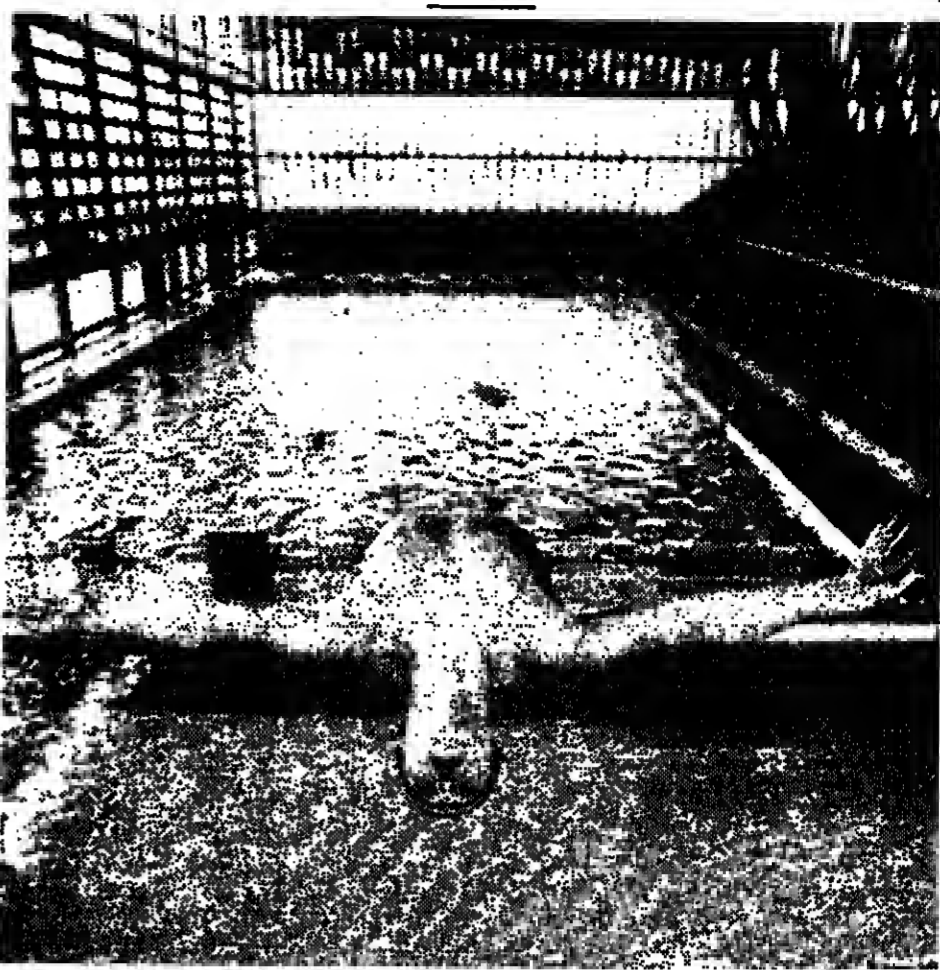
Women moving forward

By Chris Than

After asserting themselves in other male-dominated sports women are now claiming their place in the world of weightlifting. The British Weightlifting Association (BWA) have now had to introduce qualifying totals to limit the number of entrants in the first women's championships at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

The interest was overwhelming, so we had to restrict entries to 60," said Wally Holland, the BWA secretary. Indeed, at their meeting in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, early this month the World Weightlifting Association decided to organize the first women's world championships next year in the United States. This year's Panoplia Cup, in Hungary, provided a useful rehearsal. Britain did particularly well in Budapest to win one gold, through Diane Denham in the 23-kilogram division, five silver medals, and three bronzes. Spectators at Crystal Palace will note that among the participants are the former Commonwealth shot champion, Judy Oatley, the Olympic rower Beryl Cockford and the Commonwealth Games discus thrower, Venissa Head.

DIVING



Head over heels: Tony Ali practises his routines at Crystal Palace

A future star with the champion in his sights

By Roy Moor

You have only to see his superb physical condition to sense that Tony Ali could be a future star. He is a young diver of above-normal sporting ability. In fact, his talent in his chosen sport - high board diving - is so precocious that he has been singled out, not only by his country, but by Greg Longanis, the American world champion, too.

Last summer, when 13 years old, he was runner up to Robert Morgan, of Wales, in the British high-board diving championship and qualified to compete for England at the Commonwealth Games. Because of his tender years, the chief Olympic coach, Mike Edge, considered it wiser not to subject him to such an important competition but wait until he was more experienced. The England selectors agreed and much to the disappointment of his personal coach, Kim White, Ali was not chosen.

Undeterred, the lively 5ft 5in youngster, London-born of Italian parents, backed his daily routine of training with even greater enthusiasm and now he has been rewarded with a place in Britain's national senior training squad - a major step on the way to selection for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

Giving him every encouragement to achieve that honour is the famed United States Olympic and world diving champion, Greg Longanis. When the Crystal Palace pool early in the year, Longanis caught sight of Ali diving and commented at the time: "That youngster looks a bit special". Nothing more was said until later in the evening. Longanis said to an official he fancied enjoying a fish supper.

He was promptly informed: "We have just the place for you. The parents of that youngster whose diving impressed you run the La Cocco Del Mare fish restaurant at Brockley nearby. Let's go."

That night Ali and Longanis, the hero whose action pictures decorate his bedroom walls, had a fish and chip supper together with his parents. Since then, Longanis has corresponded regularly with the youngster, giving him hints and asking for news of his progress. Longanis has even invited him to visit him in the States for tuition at any time. It is young Ali's dream to become a world-beater like Longanis.

Master Tony has had a phenomenal rise to the top. It was not until the summer of 1983 that he started to show interest in diving at his local Ladywell Baths. He competed in the group championships at Cheltenham and finished 27th of 30 divers.

But for the Crystal Palace coach, Kim White, Ali clearly showed potential and in agreement with his tutor at the Saxton Crown Swimming Club, Stan Turk, he became a member of the newly formed Crystal Palace Diving Institute's junior squad to train 24 hours a week - 14 hours in the pool and 10 hours in the gymnasium, specially equipped with a diving harness.

"It is because Tony is so dedicated to becoming a champion that he is developing into an outstanding diver," White said. "There are 544 recognized dives in our sport and already Tony is capable of a good score from 272 of them. His target is to become proficient in all 544."

So keen is Ali to become as good as Longanis that it troubles him if he is not at the Crystal Palace pool by 5 o'clock every morning for two hours' training before going to his Crutten

School. He returns at night for more work-outs in the gym or pool.

"He is a boy of tremendous character and courage," White comments. "When a dive goes wrong for him he quickly comes back to assert his true ability in the next. He is determined to give of his best always."

Weaker discipline brings victory

Last weekend, Ali won the All England Schools one-metre championship at Plymouth with 80 points to spare. And springboard is not his strongest suit. White says Lack of weight - he is 8st 13lb - prevents his getting a particularly good take-off, but from the high-board, he is becoming a young master because of the speed of reactions in spins, twists and somersaults, no matter how complicated the dive.

White explains: "With the international squad training at the same time as the juniors, Tony has ample opportunity to see how difficult dives are done. At home he studies dives over and over again on video, particularly those of Longanis. These visual studies implant the action in his mind and with his spotting ability to know exactly where he is at any point of a high-board dive goes to prove what a highly talented young diver he has become."

Longanis in a recent letter to Ali told him that diving tariffs do not win competitions. "Success is built on consistency. Be consistent," he wrote. Tony Ali is striving to be just that.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Troubled Nuneaton face a fight for survival

By Paul Newman

Nuneaton Borough, who in the last six days have lost their player-manager and secretary and been eliminated from two cup competitions, face two matches in the next week which could prove crucial to their future. The GM Vauxhall Conference club, fifth to bottom in the league, travel to King's Lynn tomorrow in the FA Trophy and to Atherton United on Tuesday in the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Noel Kelly, the Nuneaton chairman, said yesterday: "As far as our fans are concerned our season would effectively be over if we lost these two. With no chance of winning anything this season our gates could drop by 400 and we would suddenly find we had the loss of something like £200 per home match. We're not well off financially and that could prove disastrous for the club."

They went down 1-0 at home to Burton Albion in the GMAC Cup, the new competition for the GM Vauxhall Conference and its three feeder leagues.

Jimmy Holmes, the former Coventry City and Tottenham Hotspur defender who has managed Nuneaton for the last year, announced his resignation after Monday's game. John Evans, secretary for the last 14 years, also left this week, to join Northampton Town. "Jimmy's resignation was a shock to us all," Mr Kelly said. "He told us it was for personal reasons. He was certainly under no pressure from the board. He saved us from relegation last year and although we haven't done as well this season as we would have hoped we were well aware of the problems he's had."

Helped them finish second in the league two seasons in succession. Carr went to Northampton, whom he has taken to the top of the fourth division this season with the help of three players, Richard Hill, Trevor Morley and Eddie McGoldrick, who followed him from Nuneaton. Over the last 18 months Nuneaton have also had to cover the loss of Paul Calpin (to Coventry City), Paul Richardson (Derby County), John Glover (Maidstone United) and Ian Bennymore (Scarborough).

Richard Dixey, the Nuneaton captain, has been put in temporary charge for the third time, having taken control after the departures of Carr and his successor, Peter Morris, who was in the job for less than six months. Dixey does not want a permanent job and Nuneaton are advertising the post, which they hope to fill within a week. "We will probably go for someone within our league, someone with good experience of this level of football," Mr Kelly said.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER. Sporting art with Surtees and Olympia Christmas fancy dress - special colour features. Making the horse world laugh - profile of cartoonist John Tinker. Love in the hunting field. A veterinary surgeon's Christmas. Gifts for the horseman - books, videos, sporting prints. HORSE and HOUND EVERY FRIDAY

TENNIS

Graf is put through her paces

From Barry Wood, New York

Steffi Graf was brought down to earth in the opening match of the Virginia Slims Championship at Madison Square Garden yesterday, before progressing to the quarter-finals with a 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Lori McNeil, of the United States.

During the lead-up to the event, the West German had consistently denied she was anticipating a showdown with Martina Navratilova in Sunday's final. That is like your kid sister saying she is not looking forward to Christmas. Under pressure, however, the truth came out.

"It's good to have a tough match at the beginning because it brings you down a bit. It's not good to look ahead too much because it can be tough," Graf said. At times this match was also tough to watch. Neither player produced anywhere near their best tennis, with Graf doing just enough to pull herself through. Each made countless errors, rather than winners. That might just be acceptable from McNeil, who is newly promoted to the top ranks, but Graf it was unexpected and disappointing.

"She came in well and played good volleys, but my returns didn't work well," Graf said. "I didn't expect her to play that well and serve that well and thought it was going to be much easier than this." In effect, she had dismissed McNeil from her mind before they even went on court. The 22-year-old Texan, who lacks the self-confidence to make her a serious challenger for top honours, served for the first set at 5-3, but then lost four consecutive games. Although winning the second set by breaking serve in the tenth game, McNeil was then overwhelmed in the third as Graf finally produced a glimpse of her true talent.

That other teenage phenomenon, Gabriela Sabatini, of Argentina, was unable to make much impression against Helena Sukova, the US Open finalist, and was beaten 6-4, 6-4. The Czechoslovak played as poorly as Graf, but Sabatini also failed to unleash her awesome power. Sukova's serve worked well, allowing her to approach the net frequently. "I had to come in because that's my game and that's what she doesn't like," Sukova said. "It's hard to pass someone like me at the net. She might do it four times, but she can't do it twenty times."

YACHTING

Minor improvements could prove vital for Crusader

From Keith Wheatley, Fremantle

Mike McIntyre, the man-shoulder, looked along a 66ft deck almost buried beneath tools, parts and the foul white dust that gets everywhere when 12-metre yachts are given a nip-and-tuck. "It is in course of cleaning," he said, "but some amazing things get done in this shed."

In civilian life, McIntyre was a senior engineer with Royal. He put a career designing military communications on ice to pursue the America's Cup with the British syndicate. Impressive McIntyre is not easy. But the technical capacity shown by the team, albeit with chainsaws, sledgehammers and welding rigs, not microchips, has pleasantly surprised him.

White Crusader is undergoing what designer, Ian Howlett, terms "developmental work". It sounds like the kind of circumlocution used when things go wrong in any sport. But there is a genuine difference between the panic chainsaw butchery being performed on a boat like Heart of America, almost too slow to win a race, and the careful planned improvements to the British yacht.

"This is incremental stuff," said Graham Walker, the chairman of the White Horse Challenge. "I have to admit that we were a little shocked by the French Kiss result, and we are addressing that heavy air weakness, but otherwise what we are doing this week was planned in the summer."

In the final race of the second round robin, sailed in a 24-knot breeze with more sea than wind, the pale grey boat, sailed by Marc Pajot, trounced White Crusader. On that day she was simply a much faster machine. That loss, coupled with a surprise win by Dennis Conner over America II, pushed Britain from a possible third in the points table to joint fifth, with USA. Come December 13, the end of the third round robin, the only prize for a challenger worse than fourth is a plane ticket home.

All yacht design is a trade-off between different sectors of performance. Because of initial cost, the method of construction, most boats are set for life the day they are launched. The beauty of 12-metres is that their aluminium construction, technically capable owners and big bank rolls, make it possible to chop and change them at will.

Gains should not be exaggerated. A slow boat tends to remain a slow boat, whatever is cut off or welded on, whatever exotic new winged keel is hung beneath the hull. However, a fundamentally sound 12-metre can always be improved a little. And halves of one per cent will be the margins that win the America's Cup.

Australia IV beat Kookaburra II by 15 seconds earlier this week - after a three-hour race. doing this week was planned in the summer. In the final race of the second round robin, sailed in a 24-knot breeze with more sea than wind, the pale grey boat, sailed by Marc Pajot, trounced White Crusader. On that day she was simply a much faster machine. That loss, coupled with a surprise win by Dennis Conner over America II, pushed Britain from a possible third in the points table to joint fifth, with USA. Come December 13, the end of the third round robin, the only prize for a challenger worse than fourth is a plane ticket home.

Four extra technicians are needed to strip a line service all the winches, electronics, rig and hydraulics when the boat docks each night. The existing dock team are already too committed to fixing what breaks to have the manpower for such a preventive maintenance. A new keel is planned for the semi-finals. Since the British won their point against the Royal Perth it could be cast in French-made but the preferred technical option is to use British experts and fly it down. More big dollars.

Graham Walker has just arrived back to London seeking another £1 million in sponsorship and support. With it, I believe, we have a good chance of being the America's Cup challenger. Without it there is every chance of the syndicate becoming just another gallant British effort; technically superlative but chockingly underfunded.

LEADING POSITIONS: Route du Rhum. 1. F. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 2. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 3. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 4. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 5. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 6. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 7. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 8. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 9. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m. 10. J. G. Bourdeau (FR) 117h 00m.

disrupted multi-hull by the ship three hours later, leaving only 15 of the original 33 starters still in the race. Meanwhile, in the BOC single-handed round the world race, the 19 competitors who set out from Cape Town just Saturday on the second stage of this race to Sydney have been facing almost as many difficulties, with two forced to port and eight others reporting serious rigging or auto-pilot failures.

The Canadian, John Hughes, was first to turn back followed by Warren Lohrs, aboard the 15-metre, Thursday's Child, leaving the Frenchman, Tihouan Lamouzo, with a 60-mile lead over the fleet.

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Another victim in Route du Rhum

Olivier Moussey became the seventh competitor to abandon his boat in the Route du Rhum single-handed transatlantic race 10 days after he left (Barry Pickhatch writes). The Frenchman, whose 14-month-old Lézard-designed yacht from further competition. Jones feels the team's resources should be thrown behind their competitive stablemate, Australia IV. Officially, the Bond camp are saying little. "In response to

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SPORT



FOOTBALL

Atkinson still uncommitted to the Turkish cause

Roo Atkinson, considering an approach to become the manager of the Turkish national team, denied yesterday that an agreement was imminent. The former Manchester United manager has asked the Turkish FA for further details and will not commit himself until he has taken a closer look at the offer. "I haven't got a job and I've got to look at anything which comes up," he said. But his immediate plans involve a holiday somewhere in the sun - a passion of his which ranks alongside gold bracelets - and his friends feel that he is a long way from deciding to go to the Bosphorus, sunny as it frequently is. Despite that, Erdem Oflas, chairman of the Turkish Football Federation, announced that Atkinson had agreed to take up the post. He said: "Atkinson has accepted our offer. He will come to Turkey

in the next few days and we will discuss terms." The move follows the resignation of Coskuo Ozarimanager after Turkey's 4-0 defeat by Yugoslavia in last month's European Championship qualifying game. On the day Ozar stepped down, Turkey drew 0-0 with Northern Ireland. If terms could not be agreed with Atkinson, Oflas said, then France's former manager, Michel Hidalgo, will be next on the Turkish shopping list. ● Wolverhampton Wanderers were back in the transfer market for the first time in two years yesterday with their manager Graham Turner paying £70,000 to West Bromwich Albion for Steve Bull, a forward, and Andy Thompson, a midfield player. ● Johnny Metgod, the Nottingham Forest defender, was fined £50 yesterday by his

manager Brian Clough after a flare-up with his own goalkeeper, Hans Segers, in Wednesday's Littlewoods Cup tie at Bradford. A mix up between the two Dutch internationals ended with Metgod gesticulating angrily at the goal-keeper. Clough said: "I am not having him treat one of his own teammates, let alone a fellow countryman, in that manner," said Clough. "He wouldn't like it if I had a go at him like that. Club secretary, John Westman, reported an upsurge in the sale of tickets over the last two days leading up to last night's 5 p.m. deadline.

Ferguson gives hope to Robson

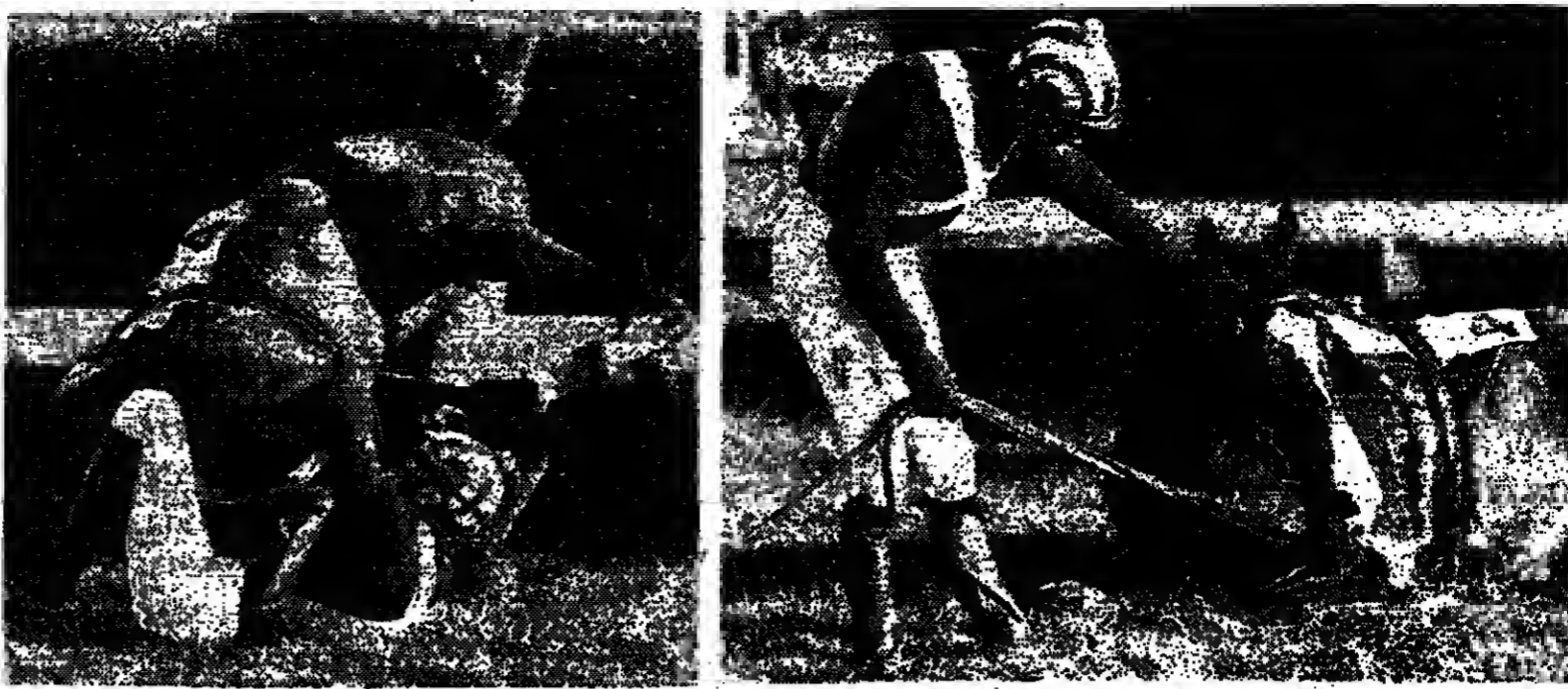
Alex Ferguson yesterday offered a message of hope for his star player Bryan Robson, Manchester United supporters and the England manager who he affirmed his conviction that "a rigorous training programme" will end Robson's series of hamstring injuries. Robson, he insisted, will not return to the team

until he is fully fit, a promising development for a player who all too often has been pressed into action before he is ready. Ferguson had remarked last week, his first full week in charge at the club, that Manchester United's fitness did not match up to his requirements, and although he said yesterday that he was not

interested in the past, there was an implied criticism of his predecessor in his comment: "Hamstring injuries tend to suggest a lack of fitness, but I'm not saying that that is necessarily the case with Bryan". In the last year United have suffered a spate of such injuries. Otherwise, Ferguson was optimistic about the team's prospects, maintaining that he still thought it possible for this season. "The players are good enough. There is not a lot wrong. Perhaps they have lost their confidence a bit and they have been lacking a little direction". Ferguson's comments came as he met the group his predecessor Ron Atkinson would categorize as his leading exponents - the Manchester football writers - for lunch. Ferguson survived unscathed, apart from enduring a Lancashire hotpot which would convince any Lancastrians that Manchester is indeed no longer part of the Red Rose county. While saying that he was still coming to terms with the excitement of the job, he left no one in any doubt that he will impose his own style. Under the kind of incisive questioning which Atkinson ultimately found unendurable, he admitted that younger players had already been told to get their hair cut, although he refused to confirm that first teamers will be required to wear club blazers in future. "We have not discussed that yet, so I don't know where you get your information from," he told his persistent questioner. But his qualifications left little doubt that that move may come. "It's a matter of self-pride and self-discipline," he said. "When they are representing United they are being judged and have a responsibility. And if they cannot display that off the field what chance have you got when you are 1-0 down with 10 minutes to go?" He was slightly more embarrassed to find out that the eager sleuths had already discovered his penchant for giving his first-team players a massage. It is evidently a means of breaking down personal barriers, and with the same aim he will also discourage the use of agents, saying: "I will not be using one". That at least will be a major change at Old Trafford.



Quality in an age of change.



The fall and rise of David Pitcher: Brinkwater, one of National Hunt racing's less gifted jumpers, provided Kempton racegoers with a spectacular moment in yesterday's Luton III Handicap Chase when coming to grief in a horrifying last-fence fall (left). The 10-year-old and his owner-trainer-rider, David Pitcher, the 50-1 outsiders of four, finished up intertwined on the soggy Sandbury turf (centre). Remarkably, neither was hurt and seconds later Pitcher was able to sit up and console his partner (right). With the other three runners long gone, Pitcher rose to remount in his own time and, to the day's lowest cheers, completed the course to collect fourth prize money of £180. (Photographs: Hugh Routledge).

England calm but Border crisis looms in the wake of defeat

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Newcastle, New South Wales

While England were moving down here from Brisbane yesterday, in the hope of starting a four-day match against New South Wales this morning, there could be heard much weeping and gnashing of teeth. Having only last week been hailed as the saviour of the future, Australia's cricketers are now being called all the names under the sun. It began on breakfast television with Ian Chappell exhorting them to be more aggressive, yet at the same time to take a leaf out of the obdurate Marsh's book. That was the first non-sequitur of the day. Australia are losing, it is being said, because they are playing more like Australia's idea of the typical Englishman (Trevor Bailey) than the dinkum Aussie (Keith Miller). Poor Border, who never wanted his job in the first place, had a terrible roaring. The Sydney Morning Herald went so far as to carry a long first leader on "The Lost Art of Captaincy", which concluded with a call for Border's removal and the elevation of Hookes, of South Australia, or Wallam, of New South Wales. Border is in trouble elsewhere for not "communicating" with his side, for being generally grumpy, for failing to attend the sponsors' televised prize-giving ceremony, for having put England in and for being too matty with Botham. Others wonder whether, like Hughes before him, he will resign.

Border himself blames the media for having written England off before the Test match started. When, at the press conference after the Test match, he was asked what he thought of England's performance, he snapped back: "It was exactly how I knew they would play, the opposite of what you experts were predicting." Much more often than not, of course, a captain is as good as his side. At Brisbane, with one good and established bowler to show the way, Australia would probably have bowled England out on the first day. Border knows it, and so do England. If, early on the second day, Gower had been caught for ought, as he should have been, the chances are that the match would have been drawn. Instead, England won well, and with the confidence which that will have given them they will be hoping to go on exploiting their much greater experience. Without being a great side all of a sudden, they do have reason to be more cheerful than at any time this year. For them the clouds have lifted from the hill, the long cold night is over, for the moment the enemy is in disarray. It feels good, but there is still a long way to go. Yesterday's one disappointment was to find Newcastle lashed by wind and rain, and to hear that a prompt start today was far from certain. For those who have not played for more than a fortnight, like Foster, French and Whitaker,

and wanting nothing more than the chance of a game, this was not at all what they had hoped for. It is a match that has always been played in the past at Sydney. There are two reasons for the switch to Newcastle: the states are looking to take some of their bigger games away from the capital cities in the hope of attracting better crowds (today's Sheffield Shield match between Victoria and Queensland is being played in the country town of Wangaratta), and the Pope, currently on his 32nd tour - two more than your correspondent - has a one-day international on the Sydney cricket ground early next week. Australia are hoping that at least this will help them win the last Test match there in January. New South Wales, current holders, and winners for three of the last four years, of the Sheffield Shield, have chosen six Test players - Holland, Lawson, Greg Matthews, Wang, Wellham and Whittaker. Also in the side is Mark O'Neill, whose father, Norman, really was one of the attacking breed. Norman thinks that Mark, who scored three successive Shield hundreds last season, has a "shout" of getting into the Test side. Should Lawsoo bowl anything like decently he will almost certainly win a place in next week's second Test match in Perth. Although for the last year he has played very little because of injury, many, including certainly one Australian selector, felt a chance should have been taken with him in Brisbane. There was a time when most of the Australian states fielded two leg spinners, one of them an all-rounder. Now Holland is pretty well the only one left: but he is 41, and it was 21 years ago that he first bowled against an England touring side. Say it though perhaps I shouldn't, it would be good to see him doing well here. It would be a bad day, one too awful to contemplate, if leg spinners were ever to become extinct.



Chappell: critical

Science as legal path to success

By John Goodbody Sports News Correspondent Sebastian Coe yesterday urged competitors to use scientific research to improve performance rather than cheat by taking drugs. He likened drugs taking to someone jumping a fence to avoid paying the entrance fee at a stadium and cited his own preparation to protect his Olympic 1500 metres title in 1984 to support his belief. Resorting to drugs, he said, was unnecessary to reach high levels of performance when these could be better achieved through scientific research combined with good coaching "an unbeatable combination" he declared. "Not to use the latest scientific research is a wilful refusal to think. It is intellectually bereft," Coe told Britain's sports administrators at the Central Council of Physical Recreation conference in Bournemouth. He gave such examples as blood chemistry analysis and isokinetic assessment as valid ways for top level competitors to improve their performance. "Let us make the doctors and scientists work for us rather than the other way around." In a discussion on "British influence on international sport - the way back," Denis Howell, the Opposition spokesman on sport and leader of Birmingham's vain bid to stage the 1992 Olympics, showed that in 1976 of the 398 elected positions in international sport 82 were held by Britons. This year the number had dropped to 46 out of a total of 416. The rise of the Latin countries was shown by the increase of their representation from 16 to 68 over the same period, including the key presidencies of the International Olympic Committee, the International Amateur Athletics Federation, the International Football Federation and the Association of National Olympic Committees. Mr Howell wanted 100 per cent government funding for Britons to attend international sports meetings, the lack of secretarial work and exchange of information between governing bodies. "Our honesty and standards are as high as they have ever been. It is our duty to assert them."

GOLF

Norman is six behind

Perth (Reuters) - British Open champion Greg Norman, disturbed by a sudden lack of motivation, struggled to make par in the opening round of the West Australian Open championship at Lake Kariinyup yesterday. Norman, whose recent winning streak ended at six when he lost the Australian PGA tournament three weeks ago, finished the day eight strokes behind Peter Senior, also of Australia, who in breaking the course record with a 64, produced one eagle and six birdies. "I'm not enjoying coming to the golf course - and that's unusual for me," Norman said. "I played pathetic golf. There's no motivation, no spirit, no heart. It makes it tough when I get up in the morning and don't feel like playing. But I have got to get it out and that's what I'll do."

GOLF

Richards finds his form in time to prevent a collapse

Viv Richards, with a studious 70, saved West Indies from complete calamity on a turning pitch when the third Test match with Pakistan began here yesterday. Following his recent lean form, Richards successfully overcame both a measure of self-doubt as well as some fine bowling by Pakistan. West Indies were 212 for seven by the close and, remembering that Pakistan have to bat last, were probably satisfied. Both Abdul Qadir, bowling with his left hand heavily bandaged to protect a fractured finger, and Tauseef Ahmed turned the ball freely and another low scoring game seems to lie ahead. The series stands level at 1-1. The pressure on Richards was enormous when he came to the crease at 94 for three and, had he failed, there is no doubt West Indies would have been dismissed for a poor total. He pushed Qadir for a single first ball and slowly found his touch without ever approaching his best form. He swept, or square cut, the spinners as his confidence grew but, after reaching his fifty, he became increasingly subdued and, near the end, did not score for 25 minutes. Finally, he pressed forward to an off-break from Tauseef and Ramiz, fielding close in at silly

GOLF

New move by Boycott

Geoff Boycott, dismissed as a player by Yorkshire in September, intends to stand for re-election as the Wakefield representative on the county cricket club's general committee in 1987. Boycott is keeping his options open, however, and told a meeting of his Wakefield members: "I have been approached by two counties to continue my playing career. I don't think I should say anything more than that at present." Although Boycott refused to name the two clubs concerned, the indications are that Glamorgan and Derbyshire would be interested in signing the batsman who finished top of Yorkshire's averages again last season. Paxton blow

SPORT IN BRIEF

Debut for Orwin

John Orwin, the former Gloucester and England lock forward, makes his Thorn EMI County Championship debut for his native Yorkshire against Durham at Morley tomorrow at the age of 33. Bradford-born Orwin, who ood plays for Bedford, was a regular member of the Gloucestershire side for several seasons, including their recent championship winning years - 1983 and 1984. Offer for North

WEST INDIES: First innings table with columns for batsman, runs, and other statistics.

Tracey hits at foul play

Richard Tracey, the Sports Minister, attacked the "professional foul" in football and pointed to how it could affect the behaviour of spectators. "Whenever we talk about the golden age of perhaps football or rugby, cricket or tennis none of us should believe that in these halcyon times competitors did not tackle hard, kick and push each other, waste time and indulge in early forms of gamesmanship. Of course they did. "But there is a difference that we can all see between striving to the utmost, within the laws of the game, and cynically seeking to stretch those laws beyond the spirit in which they were drafted. "I think we've all seen enough of the professional foul. I think we've all heard enough 'pledging' to last for quite a long time. We have seen all the dissent with officials we want to see. "Such behaviour affects spectators. Actions by players can spark incidents off the field. Bad manners influence participants at grass roots level as youngsters seek to follow the example set by the stars." Mr Tracey's words give yet another example of the Government's pressure on football authorities to put their house in order.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring the words 'owler', 'lock', and 'war'.